

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Utica and Rome, New York**

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 7, 2008, ACC 116**

**Present:** D. Boyce, A. Broski, T. Capraro, K. Capuana, N. Chrisman, A. Dean, C. Domser, A. Doughtie, S. Frisbee, H. Gagnon-Lambert, S. Getchell, K. Hartman, D. Hoffman, D. Horton, R. Jubenville, B. Judycki, D. Katz, J. Smrtic, D. McDermott, J. Maio, W. Perrotti, R. Pucine, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, T. Schink, R. Spetka, C. Way, D. Willner, J. Zegarelli, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Students:** T. Stong and M. Tretter.

**Absent/excused:** D. Bogan, R. Day, D. Ianno, C. Miller, S. Selden, S. Senior, and C. Svoboda.

**Guests:** J. Andrek, J. Bullis, R. Cantor, M. Czarnecki, M. Eannace, S. Engel, P. Fox, N. Gioppo, N. Rosero, D. Sawyer, and E. Searles.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Two corrections were suggested for the September 9 minutes. The minutes were approved as amended by common consensus.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

W. Perrotti noted that the Disciplinary Appeals Board is up and running. He announced the appointments to all the committees. The Academic Policies Committee still needs a department head, and the General Education Committee still needs one representative from the Engineering, Computer, and Physical Sciences department. There are as yet no student members on any of the committees. He will work with Student Congress to fill these spots, especially on the Traffic Committee, which needs to meet soon. D. Katz moved, and A. Doughtie seconded, to approve the appointments. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

W. Perrotti also remarked that Student Congress is very interested in sustainability. In addition, he stated that the new President of Herkimer County Community College has contacted him for a copy of the College Senate By-Laws and other documents in order to establish a Senate of their own.

W. Perrotti commented on the "Pick-a-Prof" web site, where students could look up a college they were interested in, and look at what kind of grades each instructor gives. He felt there were freedom of information issues with it. Some colleges have ignored it. W. Perrotti forwarded it to the Academic Policies Committee for their consideration. President VanWagoner stated that the response to the invitation to participate in this service will probably be no.

W. Perrotti got an email about the need for some element of attire at graduation to identify CSTEP students. He referred this to the Academic Policies Committee. He also received an email from Nassau Community College endorsing the committee on transfer credit.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

None

## **PRESIDENT VANWAGONER'S REPORT**

The President asked for comments on the Senate's meeting with the representatives from the Strategic Horizon Network. He urged everyone to read this week's blog post and to send him their comments. He plans to discuss the SHN in more depth at the December Senate meeting.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs: M. Eannace reported that 19 new faculty were involved in the New Faculty Institute, which was favorably commented upon by the participants. She is working on the Wait List Project with R. Spetka to ensure that students don't get shut out of courses they need. The Transitional Education Committee, started by S. Engel, is working to increase interdisciplinary and transitional education opportunities for developmental education students. The department heads have been working on expanded educational opportunities during intercession. She reported that students are turning out in droves for the cultural events. The Technology Tuesday/Web Wednesday program has had 56 faculty and staff enrolled in its workshops. The Business department has formed a textbook committee to explore online textbook alternatives, such as freeware and shareware, so that textbooks will either be available online or printed out by the college and therefore sold more cheaply. Textbooks for other departments will be looked at later. Sue Smith, the new Adjunct Coordinator, has begun and can be contacted to get messages out to the adjuncts. The first adjunct convocation was very well attended.

Special election: D. Katz reported that there were 47 nominees for the Disciplinary Appeals Board. Voting was made much easier thanks to an online ballot prepared by N. Chrisman.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Promotion Review Task Force: C. Domser will set up a meeting with W. Perrotti and the Senate Advisory Committee to refocus the group.

Senate Committee Reports: The Curriculum Committee's annual report included two recommendations to the Senate. S. Frisbee, chair, requested that consideration be given to having one person check over the entire college catalog for errors and inconsistencies, as currently it is put together by various individuals and committees contributing their parts. J. Andrek remarked that her department is trying to devise a unified system for content management. This past year the entire catalog was converted to HTML. S. Frisbee also pointed out that a variety of different course descriptions and outlines are being offered for the same course taught by different people. This can be solved at a department level. A. Doughtie moved, and D. Boyce seconded, to accept the report with its recommendations. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

College Calendar: N. Gioppo, chair of the College Calendar Committee, reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 calendar. A finals week, an extra spring break, a week between commencement and the beginning of summer classes, and two professional development days were added. The March spring break coincides with SUNY IT's break, and the April spring break coincides with that of the public schools. It was decided that each Senator would take it back to their constituencies for discussion and vote on it at the November Senate meeting.

Sustainability: W. Perrotti presented a draft charter from President VanWagoner for a Sustainability Design Team, which would not initially be a Senate committee. Sustainability is defined as more than just recycling (eg., energy issues, water conservation). D. Katz suggested adding more faculty, especially from departments with

knowledge of sustainability issues. W. Perrotti requested that names of appropriate people who might like to serve be sent to him.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Learning Support & Developmental Education: C. Domser discussed the “Diploma to Nowhere” report. She feels that there should be a large learning center on campus in a separate building to address developmental education issues. A. Doughtie commented that developmental education is being addressed. Unfortunately, developmental/remedial courses are non-credit but use up financial aid. Aid must increase so that students will have the incentive to enroll in the remedial courses they need. D. Willner remarked that some schools are building their senior year courses based on the MVCC placement tests. President VanWagoner stated that last fall local school superintendents were on campus, and that MVCC will send its annual report to the school districts. The President requested that faculty and staff send him anecdotal perspectives on this issue.

Bylaws update regarding committees: Tabled.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

D. McDermott moved, and A. Doughtie seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 by common consensus.

### **NEXT MEETING(S)**

The next Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, November 4, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., ACC 116.**

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be **Monday, November 24, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.**

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman  
Senator and Recording Secretary