

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 6, 2010, IT 225

Present: A. Broski, K. Capuana, N. Chrisman, J. DeWeerth, C. Domser, D. Elseth, K. Hartman, D. Katz, A. Light, D. McDermott, C. Miller, R. Musante, J. Palmer, M. Parry, R. Pucine, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, T. Schink, E. Searles, S. Senior, D. Skibitski, J. Smrtic, R. Spetka, R. Thomas, C. Way, D. Willner, and J. Yager.

Student Senators: J. Shumway and M. Vogt.

Excused/Absent: T. Barber, D. Boyce, S. Frisbee, S. Getchell, D. Hoffman, D. Horton, D. Ianno, B. Judycki, M. McHarris, S. Perry-Zasa, S. Selden, C. Svoboda, and President R. VanWagoner.

Guests: J. Boulanger, J. Bullis, A. Doughtie, M. Eannace, P. Fox, P. Katchmar, M. Khan, S. McGovern, S. Myalik, and R. Rosero.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A typographical error was pointed out on page two (the first word is misspelled). C. Domser moved, and D. Elseth seconded, to accept the minutes with the correction of the typo. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vice Chair B. Quist attended the March Board of Trustees meeting in place of D. Katz. The architects explained the three versions of the master plan to the Board.

D. Katz met with B. Quist to review the election process and establish dates for her committee. He reminded the Senators that timely action will be needed when the call for nominations and when the ballots go out.

As MVCC governance leader, D. Katz also attended the FCCC Spring Plenary Session in Buffalo with FCCC representative E. Searles. They met with SUNY Chancellor Dr. Nancy Zimpher, MVCC Board of Trustees representative David Mathis, other community college presidents, four-year college presidents, and SUNY Provosts. MVCC's Robert Jubenville received the FCCC Distinguished Service Award for 24 years of exemplary service.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

M. Vogt reported that on March 11 students voted on how student activity money was to be budgeted. The result was the following: instead of each club receiving \$1000 in the budget, each club will receive \$250.00 at the beginning of the fall semester. The clubs then have to hand in a list of 10 members and proposed expenditures before receiving additional money.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Eannace reported that the work of the six design teams is coming to a close. Final reports will be brought to the Senate. She also reported that the screening committees are working hard, and that budgets from the five centers have been submitted.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

E. Searles reported that attending the Plenary Session was a new experience for her. The master plan for the state will be presented later this month. E. Searles reported that she was appointed to the Governance Subcommittee, which is working on student transfer.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Committee Charter Revisions: D. Katz explained that the process by which the Committee Charters were revised, and asked the Senate to approve the revisions. J. DeWeerth moved, and K. Capuana seconded, to approve the recommendation from the Senate Advisory Committee to approve the revisions. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions. The Committee Charters will be placed in a College Senate public folder in Outlook for Senators to examine for themselves.

Input on revised Academic Complaint Procedures: In the current handbook, on page 41, it says that the complete academic complaint procedures are available in the Vice President's office. Now the entire procedure is to be included in the Student Handbook. Maimun Khan is the Academic Complaint Advisor. Students have 30 days to initiate an informal procedure of complaint. A formal procedure for complaint also has to be initiated for complaint. It was pointed out that either the former has to be shortened or the latter lengthened. J. Palmer suggested a change in the last paragraph. She suggested that the information about exceptions should be in a separate paragraph from the rest of the information there.

Upgrade to Windows 7 in computer labs: P. Katchmar reported that over the summer computers in the labs will be upgraded to the Windows 7 platform. Office 2007 will be left on until Office 2010 comes out next year. The first lab to be converted will be IT 219. After the lab computers and smart classrooms, the faculty computers will be converted, followed by the non-teaching faculty and staff. By November the entire campus will be converted to Windows 7. New laptops purchased will have Windows 7, which works much faster than Windows XP. It was noted that the college opted not to convert to the Windows Vista platform, which was troublesome. S. Myalik reported that Computer Services is in the process now of converting lab printers to printing double-sided pages, which will save on paper. The computers default to double-sided, but can be changed to single-sided. Currently these types of printers are only in the open labs.

Issues regarding the Dual Credit Program:

B. Quist presented a list of issues brought to her by various faculty members concerning the college's dual credit program. R. Thomas pointed out that taking college courses on a college campus is a different experience from taking them in high school. Students often come to

MVCC lacking science courses, which they should be taking instead of dual credit college courses. S. Senior commented that grades are inflated in high school, so that students get credit for courses they shouldn't. S. Myalik said that, with No Children Left Behind, teachers are pressured to pass children even though they are not passing. A. Broski stated that, from a PR standpoint, parents like the idea of their children being able to get college credit for courses they take in high school, but she admitted that perhaps it needed to be better controlled. M. Eannace stated that last year a letter was sent out to all the schools—a letter which the schools had to sign—stating that the students admitted to the dual credit program must have a B average and be at least in their junior year. Recently, she added, a psychology, a sociology, and a French course were pulled from the program because the learning standards were not being met. D. Katz, who has traveled to area schools and observed these dual credit instructors, remarked that some of the high school teachers teach better than some of our adjuncts, who may not be as qualified and who may already be working full-time. J. Boulanger stated that 80% of our students come in needing some kind of remediation. S. McGovern replied to this that some schools have no more math or science courses to offer their students beyond tenth or eleventh grade, so MVCC is filling that gap. R. Thomas remarked that, if that is the case, parents need to protest to the schools. In response to issue #9, about an area college coming close to offering an A.S. in General Studies through dual credit, J. Boulanger stated that Herkimer County Community College cannot do it, because the state forbids a student being awarded a college degree without a high school diploma first. She also stated that the reason dual credit science programs aren't offered is because most school labs aren't sufficiently equipped to handle the courses. R. Spetka pointed out that, with the exception of some private colleges, dual credit courses are accepted almost everywhere. The question was asked why college teachers don't go to the schools to teach. S. McGovern replied that it is a union issue; college teachers are not certified to teach in school and would take jobs away from school teachers. C. Miller asked if there is a maximum number of dual credit courses a student can take. S. McGovern replied that students can take as many courses as they can fit into their schedules. J. Boulanger added that students may be pressured to take college courses in high school because colleges are now asking about this on their applications, even when they don't accept dual credit courses.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Vogt moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 by common consensus.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, May 4th, 2010, at 2:30 in IT 225.**

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, April 26, 2010, at 3:00 in PH 391.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary