

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 4, 2010, IT 225

Present: D. Boyce, K. Capuana, N. Chrisman, C. Domser, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, K. Hartman, B. Judycki, D. Katz, A. Light, J. Maio, D. McDermott, C. Miller, R. Musante, J. Palmer, M. Parry, S. Perry, R. Pucine, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, T. Schink, S. Senior, J. Smrtic, R. Spetka, R. Thomas, C. Way, D. Willner, J. Yager, and President R. VanWagoner.

Student Senators: D. Nekritz and M. Vogt.

Absent/Excused: T. Barber, A. Broski, J. DeWeerth, S. Getchell, D. Hoffman, D. Horton, M. McHarris, E. Searles, S. Selden, J. Shumway, D. Skibitski, and C. Svoboda.

Guests: J. Bullis, M. Buttenschon, R. Cantor, A. Doughtie, R. Feola, W. Hysell, L. Kahler, D. Kelly, and K. Nguyen.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

R. Thomas moved, and D. Boyce seconded, to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010, meeting. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Katz reported that he will ask the committees to elect chairs for the coming academic year by the end of May, so that they will be set to begin work in September.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

M. Vogt announced the results of the Student Congress elections for next year.

President: Megan Vogt

Vice President: John Reim

Student Trustee: Adam Gardner

Cultural Committee Liaison: Maeve Semo

Program Board: Scott Cardoza

Treasurer: Eric Griffith

She also noted that she was trying to find students to fill positions on committees now instead of waiting until September.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President VanWagoner presented the Heart of the Hawk award to Bill Hysell and the Pride of the Hawk award to Norma Chrisman. He announced that on Monday, May 17, the Rome campus would be hosting the members of the Oneida County Education and Youth Committee.

The Rome campus represented 14% of the college's full-time enrolled students last year. Rome campus enrollment has increased 44% over the past five years. The Rome campus also has a new lab for the surgical technician program. President VanWagoner stated that there would not be a summer cohort for the airframe and power plant program, but that there would be a fall cohort. He feels that Empire Aero will most likely sell out to one or more smaller companies. Lastly, he thanked the Senate for another great year, adding, "Imagine the college without the Senate!"

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Feola reported that the Governor reduced state aid by \$130/FTE last fall, which lost the college about \$450,000. The 2010 budget calls for more cuts, which should be between \$130 and \$415/FTE. Bids for the field house went out last Tuesday. During June through August of 2011 the campus will be torn up to add the field house as well as a fitness center. He stated that the college could hold commencement there, as it will seat 3,000 and will be air-conditioned. He announced that all the fiber on campus is in the process of being replaced. With regards to the major problems with Godzilla last week, he said that IT had to rebuild the entire server. The mass test of the campus' emergency system last Friday (April 30) revealed that the telephones installed in the classrooms and labs weren't working as expected, so more will have to be done there. Those who signed up for New York Alert should have gotten a message over their office phones. The recent fire inspection of the campus produced the best report the college has ever had. Lastly, he announced that the college increased the amount of student insurance from \$1000 to \$10,000. R. Thomas asked when the clock on the tower would be fixed, as it shows the wrong time and chimes out of sync. R. Feola replied that they would work on it.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate elections: B. Quist thanked the members of the Nominations and Elections Committee for their work. She reported that the results were emailed to everyone.

Academic Complaint Policy—Response from Student Congress: M. Vogt stated that after last month's Senate meeting, she met with Student Congress to discuss the proposed academic complaint policy. Student Congress feels that the student needs more involvement in the process, that he or she be given a choice of either going to the Vice President or having a hearing. There was some concern that the Vice President or the committee may be biased at times. R. Thomas replied that, having served on such a committee, he has found it to be a fair process, though, by its nature, not a comfortable process. C. Miller felt that most of the time it would be fairly obvious if a faculty member or student has erred; she felt that most complaints are fairly cut-and-dried. B. Quist thought that the process is the problem, and would like to see a less adversarial process. R. Thomas suggested that perhaps the Vice President could handle most complaints, but if the V.P. could not resolve the issue, then a hearing could be requested.

It was pointed out that the current Academic Complaints Committee is not a Senate committee, and that what Student Congress would like from the Senate at this time is support for bringing their ideas to the Vice President to work out a mutually agreeable process, with interested faculty invited to participate. A resolution to that effect was put forth by D. Katz. D. McDermott moved, and T. Schink seconded, to approve the resolution. The motion was carried, with none opposed and two (2) abstentions.

Workplace Violence Prevention Policy: D. Kelly presented the proposed workplace violence prevention policy from the Safety and Security Committee. The document is based on previously compiled documents, and is required by a 2007 New York State labor law. D. Kelly requested Senate input. Question was raised as to whether bullying is considered “threatening behavior”, and D. Kelly answered in the affirmative. Question was also raised as to whether anyone can call 911. D. Kelly replied that security should be called first, as they would not only call 911 but be able to assist in directing them to the specific location of the person(s) needing help. N. Chrisman pointed out the place on campus security’s web page where incident reports can be found, for those interested in statistics and specific cases. J. Bullis reported that, as campus security personnel retire or leave employment, the college plans to replace them with peace officers, who have more authority and training than security officers but less than police officers. Once the campus security consists entirely of police officers, the college would then have to decide whether or not to arm them.

Underrepresentation of Assistant Deans and Innovation Team Leaders on newly reorganized Senate committees: D. Katz suggested that Senators look at the new committee charters for places where Assistant Deans and Innovation Team Leaders might be needed, as some feel that they have been overlooked.

ADJOURNMENT

D. McDermott moved, and B. Judycki seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by common consensus at 4:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, May 18th**, at **1:00 p.m.** in **IT 225**.
The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be **Monday, May 10th**, at **3:00 p.m.** in **PH 391**.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Senator and Recording Secretary