

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 2, 2010, PH 300

Present: D. Boyce, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, M. Chauvin, N. Chrisman, J. DeWeerth, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, E. Hantsch, D. Horton, D. Hydellund, P. Katchmar, D. Katz, A. Light, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, J. Palmer, M. Parry, R. Pucine, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, J. Roberts, G. Searles, D. Skibitski, J. Smrtic, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, R. Thomas, J. Wilcox, J. Yager, and W. Zogby.

Students: None.

Absent/Excused: T. Barber, S. Cummings, S. Dar, E. Griffith, C. Miller, D. Nekritz, C. Plescia, M. Vogt, C. Way, and R. VanWagoner.

Guests: F. Armstrong, J. Boulanger, J. Bullis, M. Buttenschon, R. Cantor, T. Carbone, D. DiGiorgio, A. Doughtie, K. Evans-Dame, R. Feola, P. Fox, K. Hartman, R. Haubert, L. Kahler, J. Maio, M. Reilly, N. Rosero, D. Sawyer-White, E. Searles, and M. Snyder.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

D. Thomas moved, and J. DeWeerth seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2010, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Katz reported that he attended the Board of Trustees meeting on October 18th, and gave his report on the Senate. At the meeting he learned that enrollment is up 5.75% per FTE over last year at this time; that Team MVCC raised \$5000 to fight breast cancer; that over 60% of all high school graduates going to college start at community colleges; and that final recommendations for the building plan are being reviewed.

D. Katz reported that he attended the Cabinet meeting on October 19th. He shared with them the approved college-wide "electronic devices" policy from May 2007 that needs their approval and then needs to be placed in the Student and Faculty/Staff Handbooks. He re-established the Senate Committee Chairs as the point persons for the entire college community in terms of faculty, staff, or administrators bringing issues germane to their areas for recommendation. He forwarded the Senate recommendation, with rationales attached, to name the A&P lab after Sam Drogo. D. Katz thanked Dawson McDermott for spearheading this work. Lastly, he forwarded to the Cabinet the Senate recommendation to strike the word "all" and add the word "funded" to their naming policy.

D. Katz also reported that the Senate Advisory Committee received an explanation of the Close Relative Policy.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

None.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

D. DiGiorgio, VP for Student Services, reported that the college's BERT system is being praised by local organizations. She announced that two colleagues, Norayne Rosero and Todd Kubica, received Educator of the Year Awards from the Genesis Group. Dan Ianno accepted the appointment of Director of Admissions. At the monthly meeting that D. DiGiorgio held with student Trustee Heather Ryerson prior to the Board of Trustees meeting, she discovered that some students don't read emails received via their student email account if the emails are from names they don't recognize or from people they don't know. Therefore, two emails have been established which will facilitate informing students about important scheduling information: mywaitlist and myschedule. The Dormitory Corporation gave out its housing survey to all currently enrolled students, and received 1200 responses. A student focus group on housing has been formed. The college has stopped listing apartments for rent, but will continue to link students to the ads in the OD. Open House is scheduled for November 13th. Student conversations with the Cabinet will be held almost every day starting next week.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES (FCCC) REPORT

B. Quist attended the fall plenary session. Issues that are being worked on include seamless transfer between community colleges and four-year SUNY colleges, textbook legislation, linking community college strategic plans with SUNY strategic plans, termination of programs without process, and ensuring that SUNY data collection not be used to compare colleges.

OLD BUSINESS

Emergency telephone signage: P. Katchmar reported that signs to be placed by the phones are being made up. They will read the same as the previously designed signs but will not include the information about calling 911, as security will handle that. The signs should all be up by next week.

D. Hydellund asked whose responsibility it is to refill first aid kits in various locations on campus. He reported that he is aware of certain labs where the kits are either empty or missing entirely. D. Katz said he would ask Anne Popeo, the College Nurse.

NEW BUSINESS

Gates Foundation grant proposal: This proposal is designed to determine what practices are most effective for students. J. DeWeerth reported that MVCC is already doing some of these best practices, and recommended that we sign up for it. She said that 8 community colleges in NYS are being asked to sign up, to see what can be developed. We can drop out of the program at any time. J. Boulanger added that it may give us money to do more of what we do well. J. Maio added that it may allow us to do more of what we do better, or go beyond that. R. Cantor responded that the Grants Council looked carefully at this grant. Clearly there are many specifics and unknowns, but he feels that there is sufficient room for us to define things ourselves and for opting out if we so choose. If the Senate does not support this proposal it will not be looked on favorably by the Gates Foundation. D. Katz added that non-instructional areas are included in this document because there are also non-academic factors involved in a student's success. A. Doughtie felt that we need more time to properly study the Gates Foundation document. G. Searles had several objections and questions. He said that they don't specify who their "experts and advisors" are and that they use terminology without specification. He also felt that if they are giving money away, it may obligate the college to do as they want, and what they want isn't clear. D. Boyce added that unless students cooperate (eg., show up for classes) "no amount of money thrown at them will help." R. Cantor stated that all grants being considered by the Grants Council can be found on the M drive. S. Frisbee moved, and M. Chauvin seconded, to support the proposal with the Senate's signature. J. Bullis added that the Senate can call for periodic reports at any

time. B. Quist amended the motion to include “with periodic reports to the Senate” at the end. S. Frisbee seconded the motion. The motion carried with 21 in favor, 2 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

Learning Communities Design Team Report: N. Chrisman moved, and J. DeWeerth seconded, to accept the report of the Design Team. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions. There was no discussion.

Program Development Design Team Report: B. Quist pointed out that there was only one faculty member on the team, and, since program development is the purview of faculty, felt that there should have been more faculty members on the team. Maggie Reilly stated that she did try to get other faculty input. M. Radlowski stated that he had already sent his concerns about the report to Maggie. Maggie stated that the actions recommended by the Team should be implemented by faculty members. B. Quist questioned whether we need to hire someone to teach us how to develop programs. However, D. Elseth pointed out that we could use someone to help people get started, especially if they have never developed a program before. D. Skibitski moved to accept the Team’s report; K. Capuana seconded. The motion carried, with one opposed and no abstentions.

Virtual Campus Design Team Report: D. Katz stated that this report is an attempt to suggest using technologies that students are already using now. Question was raised as to whether this is an effort to push more courses into online format and away from in-classroom format. It was pointed out that not all disciplines lend themselves to being taught online. G. Searles pointed out that, done correctly, online courses can be more work than a campus-taught course. K. Capuana stated that students need to be very self-disciplined in order to take an online course, and asked if we had statistics on success/failure rates. M. Radlowski responded that the withdrawal rate for online courses is twice that of campus-taught courses. D. Horton added that some students don’t learn as much from online courses as they would in a classroom. N. Chrisman stated that MVCC currently has two programs completely online, and that the college needs to start supporting them. J. DeWeerth felt this document should be developed further, and moved to accept it and ask the Team for further development. S. Frisbee seconded the motion. The motion carried, with one opposed and no abstentions.

Textbook Cost Controls: Tabled until the next meeting.

Policy for flyers posted throughout campus: Tabled until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

D. McDermott moved, and M. Sorrentino seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m. by common consensus.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 30th at 3:30 p.m. in PH 304.

The next College Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, December 7th, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Recording Secretary