

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York
COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 1, 2011, IT 225

Present: D. Boyce, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, S. Cummings, J. DeWeerth, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, E. Hantsch, D. Horton, D. Hydellund, P. Katchmar, D. Katz, D. Kelly, A. Light, D. McDermott, C. Miller, J. Palmer, M. Parry, B. Quist, M. Radlowski, J. Smrtic, R. Spetka, M. Syed, C. Way, J. Wilcox, W. Zogby, and R. VanWagoner.

Student Senators: J. Shumway and M. Vogt.

Absent/excused: K. Capuana, S. Dar, E. Griffith, M. McHarris, C. Plescia, R. Pucine, J. Roberts, G. Searles, D. Skibitski, M. Sorrentino, and J. Yager.

Guests: J. Bullis, D. DiGiorgio, C. Domser, R. Haubert, N. Rosero, M. Snyder.

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of minutes from the 2/1/11 meeting. Approved by: Second by:

3. Chairperson's Report – D. Katz

- Attended cabinet meeting. Explained initiation of peace officers conversation. March 14, March Institute
- Vincent Roach / Jim Lynch / Advisory Board – classroom assignments
- LaToya Richardson will update the website presence of college senate. Committee chairs should check for accuracy.
- Election committee – election will be done one month earlier so that in the Fall, committees can begin work immediately.

4. Student Congress President's Report – M. Vogt

- Fund raise and participate in America's Heart Walk
- March 14 – student congress retreat -> discuss issues related to their budget

B. Quist asked if Student Congress will address 'student violence on campus' – MV – waiting to hear from their advisor to see how they should proceed.

5. President's Report – R. VanWagoner

- Think Tank – group meet throughout the semester to bring up different topics:
Year 1: Electronic pay stub – elimination of pay stub – retrieve info through SIRS
Year 2: Advocacy for soft furniture in lounge spaces
Year 3: Electronic online suggestion box – Patty Fox will be heading up this function
Year 4: Number of New Employees – people unsure of who the person is and the face that goes with the name. Idea to have portraits (optional) on web and internally through Outlook.
- Follow up on parking issue: with snow, there is a challenge. Students park at end of a parking row and cause a problem. 76 tickets issued and 4 cars were towed. Concern raised: faculty and staff continue to park in the visiting parking spots. Same people parking in the visitors spots. Employees have not been ticketed or towed. It will be enforced with not only students but faculty and staff too.

6. **VP's Report** – D. DiGiorgio

- Housing BOT – academic housing policy for those who want to get housing and for those who want to maintain housing (see D. DiGiorgio email regarding the topic)
- Child Care is filing for accreditation and will have a site visit in the Fall. Will receive grants and other funding after receiving this.
- Rome Campus will receive its own part time Counselor.
- Dan Ianno – Asst Director of Admissions vacant changed to Admissions Specialist. Work with Marketing to interact with social media. New person will begin Mid-March
- In the past, students have had 48 hours to register for classes; now, starting April 18, each priority group will have 1 week to priority register.
- Wait list program – 1300 students were served - thanks to V. Roach, R. Pucine and R. Spetka.
- Installation of sprinklers in old dorms – work will happen in 2 of the 4 dorms in Summer 2011. Remaining 2 will be done in Summer 2012.
- ZEST – MVCC and Marymount are only campuses to have ZEST. MVCC is 'blowing Marymount out of the water' with sales.
- Pizza Hut, Subway, and Chicago Grill will be coming in the summer time.
- Call Center – many hired in Jan. 2 that worked 9-2, financial aid and advisement questions answered. About 100 questions per day answered.
- Jennifer DeWeerth – part time advisors hired. A call out center – on Jan 24, 762 students accepted for the spring semester were contacted to see how things were going.

7. **FCCC Report** – B. Quist

Semester meeting in two weeks. Will report at the April Senate meeting.

8. **New Business**

(a) New Test Scoring System / Informational

- a. System was old and would not be supported any longer. We are converting to a new system. It will be ready after Spring Break. Those who use the system should convert over to it at that time. Front end is the same. Reports will look differently.

(b) Assessment Report / N. Rosero

Get info from Norayne.

(c) College communication protocol during safety issues

Regarding incident in Dorm – article in newspaper but college community didn't receive information until late the next day. College had not communicated with commuter students, only with dorm students. J. Smrtic stated that the name of the accused was published, and asked if this is something new. M. Snyder indicated in the affirmative. J. Smrtic added that the college wants to be supportive of students, and students should be held accountable. M. Snyder stated that FERPA and other statutes are what they are. Colleges have the option to disclose the identity of

the student. We only want to publish confirmed information. Our first duty is to disclose to college community as to what is going on. B. Quist appreciated that the most recent incident was addressed in a timely fashion. However, students did not receive the information. M Vogt confirmed that they did not receive it. Rich Haubert stated that he does not have access to allstudents email so he could not send the message out to the students. D. DiGiorgio could not access it either. To this date, it has not been sent to the allstudents distribution list. D. Kelly stated that the actual college email was different from what was reported in the paper. M. Syed asked if the college has an emergency alert system like other colleges. M. Snyder replied that MVCC participates in New York Alert, which is used for serious issues. We do not have a system for less serious issues. Asked for help from the Senate in developing some sort of a system to address these needs and to be more timely. Be accurate in the information that is reported out. S Frisbee asked if, in the gun incident, communication was intentionally made with the residence hall students but not all students. M. Snyder stated that there is no policy but agreed that there should be. Student J. Shumway– Hawk Eye tip – students give information. M. Snyder – Regarding the *Observer-Dispatch*, there is some tendency to ‘beat everyone to the punch’. We have to be sure that we have everything right before we send out our message. D. Horton felt that messages should be sent out accurately and suggested instead of one message quickly sent, that a series of accurate messages be sent as information is obtained. D.Kelly wanted reassurance that the college community feels comfortable and aware of what is going on. J. Bullis said that in a serious crisis on campus, the first communication will be to emergency services. In the case of the gun incident, the press received its information from the police agencies, not from the college. W. Zogby expressed amazement at the discrepancy between what College reported and what the press reported. MS stated that there are different standards for information gathering. We need to come up with one standard to gather everything. D. Boyce asked, was the information in the *Observer-Dispatch* correct? M. Snyder – not entirely sure. J. Bullis stated that we compiled our information from what our people gathered. J. DeWeerth moved that “the Cabinet will be charged to create a plan for emergency communications.” S. Frisbee second. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

(d) College wide proactive & preemptive strategies related to civility & safety

Do we have in place a plan to address safety issues through how we educate our students? Do we give our students remediation skills and conflict resolution skills? We need to try to positively educate our students in this. J. Shumway stated that students don’t say anything because they are afraid of retribution. A newsletter or coaching workshop is needed to help students. D. DiGiorgio – talk to friends and peers to file a report. We can’t react if we don’t know. M. Vogt stated that Student Congress has invited Chief Palmer and security to its meetings to allow students to communicate with them at that time instead of going to security directly. J. DeWeerth – strategic plan – include professional standards for faculty and staff. Comprehensive plan for student conduct. In the plan for next year. D. Elseth suggested that, as DGV and special needs were added to syllabi, is this something that we can also add to our syllabi. J. Shumway felt that, since we pay to go here, we should feel safe and not have to worry about being harassed. C. Domser has observed a number of non-students in College areas. M. Vogt stated that Student Congress has voiced this before. Security told us that there is nothing that could be done about this unless the non-students are creating a problem. J. Shumway – change the mindset of people. Know where to go and that there will be an outcome. S Cummings reported that non-students are creating issues in the snack bar, such as holes in pillars. J. Bullis felt that faculty and staff should take responsibility too. Confront students if you feel comfortable doing so. D. Boyce asked if this should this be added to ED100. B. Quist felt that we should do something soon. Have a public meeting or immediate address of this. D. Elseth – maybe during student orientation? W. Zogby asked if it is true that, at an MVCC event, we have no control over who attends? Are we not allowed to monitor that? D. DiGiorgio replied that we can impose a control on that. For example, at Utica College, one student may bring one guest. Students are responsible for their guests’ behavior. J. Bullis stated that we need to work together with the student body to enforce

a civil campus. No events for non-students until we are a civil campus. M. Snyder felt that the vast majority of our students are here to learn and are serious learners. It is the minority who create the problems. Code of student conduct – set of rules that you follow so that this is a place of learning. P. Katchmar suggested that we accelerate peace officers – 3 for the shifts are not nearly enough. Professionals need to show their presence. Rules need to be enforced. C. Miller asked if there are more incidents like this now than there have been in the past. D. DiGiorgio stated that we are no different than the rest of society. We enforce the codes of conduct. We mean business. We have dismissed 15 people from the dorms due to breaking the code of conduct. A four hour amnesty program was instituted last week; any student who thought they may have anything that was considered as a weapon could turn it in without getting into trouble. A couple days later, staff went through each dorm room to perform an inspection, but nothing was found. B. Quist moved that Senate recommend that appropriate organizations and councils, such as the Safety and Security Committee, the President’s Cabinet, the Strategic Planning Committee, on campus take action to address civility, violence and safety initiatives in the short and long term. M. Vogt seconded the motion. The motion carried, with 25 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention.

9. Adjournment

W. Zogby moved, and M. Vogt seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

Next Meetings:

The next College Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, March 29, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. in PH 304. The next College Senate meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in **IT 225**.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Chrisman
Acting Recording Secretary