

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 6, 2012, IT 225

College Senate web page: <http://www.mvcc.edu/senate/senate-home>

Present: L. Charbonneau, S. Cummings, J. Dewan, S. Frisbee, L. Flynt, E. Hantsch, D. Horton, D. Hyldelund, P. Katchmar, L. Kattato, D. Katz, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, A. Light, J. Livadas, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, G. Melendez, J. Mihevc, B. Molinaro, R. Pucine, M. Radlowski, G. Searles, J. Smrtic, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, C. Way, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow, and J. Yager.

Student Senators: J. Coleman, C. Sleys.

Absent/Excused: N. Chrisman, J. Constantine, S. Dar, J. DeWeerth, D. Elseth, M. Parry and W. Zogby.

Guests: M. Eannace, S. Engel, R. Feola, K. Hartman, D. Ianno, J. Myers, J. Palmer, W. Perrotti, M. Reilly, and S. Reynolds.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

G. Searles moved, and R. Spetka seconded, to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2012, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Katz reported to the Board of Trustees on February 16 and to the Cabinet. He will be attending the spring plenary of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges with Ron Labuz at the end of March. Since President VanWagoner is in Albany, there will be no President's report.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

J. Coleman reported that the Civility Club forum, which was scheduled for Friday, March 9th, has been moved to April. The group would like to focus more on solutions to the problem in this forum. George Zook and Chrono Ho are the club's advisors; Chris Sleys is the club's President. J. Coleman also announced a new policy regarding advisors to clubs—that no faculty or staff can advise more than two clubs. This is to prevent advisors from getting spread out too thin and not spending enough time with each of their clubs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VP S. Reynolds stated that since November she has been working with the ED 100 Design Team. The ADA Compliance Design Team was also formed in November and is trying to determine where we stand with regards to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The college will hire an outside company to evaluate the situation to determine where we are deficient. The spring open house will be on Friday, April 20th. S. Reynolds presented to the Board a report on the Pathways to Academic Recovery program, which began in 2009 working with students in academic jeopardy. She reported that the Civility work group is by charter supposed

to work until May 2013 but has recently suffered a serious loss of momentum. They are now a design team with recommendations due at the end of July. There is a need for people to back up those who stand up to stop incivility. There has been an increase recently in the number of incidents of incivility and violence in the classroom. S. Reynolds called for volunteers to serve to create a larger team. J. Livadas brought up the problem of the use of cell phones in the classroom, and inquired about college policy. Upon learning that the policy is to leave it up to individual instructors to include cell phone policy in their syllabi, J. Livadas replied that it should not be left up to instructors, but should be a college-wide policy. G. Searles added that a college-wide policy would prevent that impression that one person was being a tyrant. Further discussion ensued.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Emeritus status: This issue was brought to the Employee Recognition Council, which is currently looking at best practices. G. Searles requested that the gender distinction between Emeritus and Emerita be preserved.

Campus clocks: P. Katchmar reported that a system has been ordered and should be on campus within the week. They hope to have it all installed by the fall semester.

Smoking policy: J. Palmer presented a PowerPoint of the Safety and Security Committee's plan for where the smoking shelters should be located on campus, as well as their sizes and materials. Two shelters are recommended for the Rome campus, one outside of Plumley on the end where smoking is currently allowed, and one outside the Academic Building. Three are recommended for the Utica campus: one that holds 6 to 10 persons near the administration parking lot, one that holds 12 to 14 persons in the dorm quad, and one that holds 12 to 14 persons on the back side of the Academic Building, where smoking is currently permitted. Each shelter costs between \$4,000 and \$4500, unheated. Adding heating units would cost an additional \$20,000 for all five shelters, and an additional \$3,000 would cover the cost of the concrete pads upon which the shelters need to be placed. M. Sorrentino suggested that the masonry class could pour the concrete pads and the HVAC class could install the heating units. In fact, the carpentry and masonry classes could even create the shelters themselves. Question was asked as to who will enforce non-smoking everywhere else. J. Palmer replied that security would, but that details of penalties and fines have not been worked out yet. J. Coleman asked if these rules would apply to security officers who smoke; J. Palmer replied in the affirmative. P. Katchmar asked if enforcement would be more difficult if this was a smoke-free campus, and J. Palmer replied yes. D. Katz pointed out that if MVCC was a smoke-free campus, smokers may end up in nearby neighborhoods annoying the neighbors with their smoke and cigarette butts. J. Coleman asked if smoking would be allowed inside a student's vehicle. J. Palmer replied that if the vehicle was parked on college property that, yes, the ban would apply to their vehicles as well. G. Melendez added his concern that the shelters are too far away from the classrooms, because students smoke between classes or on breaks and won't use the shelters if they're too far to walk to. He felt we should ask the smokers on campus where the shelters should be. D. Horton felt that the college should not spend money on shelters that encourage people to smoke, especially in light of the campus wellness initiative. G. Searles stated that many campuses that are not already smoke-free are using shelters as an intermediary step to becoming smoke-free. J. Woodrow asked who would clean them; J. Palmer replied that facilities would have that responsibility. R. Labuz felt that the dormitory corporation should pay for the one located in the dorm quad. J. Mihevc moved, and M. Sorrentino seconded, to accept the plan as presented. D. Katz proposed an amendment to either add another shelter or move one of the shelters to a more acceptable spot. P. Katchmar requested that there not be a shelter located in the campus quad; R. Labuz seconded that. J. Mihevc withdrew his motion. D. Kelly moved, and C. Sleys seconded, to accept the proposed plan with the amendment that the location and number of shelters could be

subject to change. The motion failed, with 12 in favor, 14 against, and 4 abstentions. M. Reilly pointed out that the Safety and Security Committee itself was split as to approval of this plan. D. Kelly stated that this discussion in the Senate will inform the Safety and Security Committee, who will discuss it further.

Wellness Committee Charter: The proposed charter for the Employee Wellness Committee was presented by D. Katz. S. Frisbee moved, and R. Labuz seconded, to approve the charter, with none opposed and no abstentions.

Senate Committee's relationship to the Senate: D. Katz presented the changes in Article 6 of the Senate Bylaws that would allow the change in reportage approved in the February Senate meeting. D. Kelly moved, and J. Dewan seconded, to approve the amended Bylaws. The motion carried with none opposed and one abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Elections: N. Chrisman, as Vice Chair, will be in charge of this year's ad hoc Nominations and Elections Committee. D. Katz made a call for volunteers in addition to S. Frisbee and R. Pucine; D. McDermott, M. Sorrentino, and J. Wilcox also volunteered to serve.

Pets policy: D. Kelly stated that the Safety and Security Committee have been working on a policy as to what animals can be where on the campus. B. Molinaro requested that the committee add under exceptions programs such as the Humane Society and the Zoo, which bring animals onto the campus occasionally. This policy will be for inside of buildings only. It will be brought to the Senate as a formal proposal for the April meeting.

Academic calendar: R. Pucine announced that M. Reilly, S. Dar, N. Gioppo, R. Spetka, himself, and others have devised two different possible academic calendars for the upcoming few years. One starts on the last Wednesday in August; one starts on the first Wednesday in September. J. Myers reminded him that a Thursday starting date creates problems with the lab set-ups. R. Spetka and P. Katchmar added that three days are needed to process information after grades are due.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Spetka moved, and J. Wilcox seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. by common consensus.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, April 3, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, March 26, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 391.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Recording Secretary