

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 2, 2012, IT 225

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

Present: J. Baumann, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, S. Cummings, J. Dewan, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, E. Hantsch, J. Hicks, D. Hyldelund, D. Ianno, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, A. Light, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, G. Melendez, J. Mihevc, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, W. Perrotti, M. Radlowski, J. Smrtic, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, J. Wilcox, and J. Yager.

Student Senators: A. Rudder.

Absent/Excused: J. Brown, L. Flynt, J. Livadas, R. Pucine, C. Pulquerio, C. Sleys, W. Zogby, and President R. VanWagoner.

Guests: D. Bogan, J. Boulanger, J. Bullis, C. Cornmire, A. Doughtie, M. Eannace, R. Feola, C. Glod, K. Hartman, J. Myers, J. Palmer, C. Plescia, S. Reynolds, N. Rosero, and T. Schwaner.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

D. Elseth moved, and A. Rudder seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2012, meeting. The motion carried by common consensus.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Kelly reported that he met with the President's Cabinet on September 11 and with the Board of Trustees on September 17 to fill them in on Senate activities. He worked with the Civility Design Team on the charge and composition of the Civility Committee. He also met with the Safety and Security Committee and President VanWagoner concerning the arming of campus peace officers. D. Kelly worked with the President, N. Chrisman, K. Hartman, and various committee chairs to fill vacancies in Senate committees. In addition, he attended the Faculty Council of Community Colleges Fall Campus Governance Leaders Conference at Hudson Valley Community College with S. Frisbee, chair of the Curriculum Committee. There they listened to a presentation from the Executive Vice Chancellor and the Provost on mobility, completion, and success, and participated in discussions on faculty concerns and on the involvement of new faculty in curriculum development and general education.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

A. Rudder reported that all six officer positions on Student Congress are filled.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of President Van Wagoner, J. Bullis awarded the Pride of the Hawk to Colleen Cornmire and the Heart of the Hawk to Emily Hantsch.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

See M. Eannace's report appended at the end of these minutes.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

R. Labuz stated that there would be a plenary conference in two weeks. FCCC allows for alternate delegates from each community college. He discussed the matter with President Van Wagoner, and suggested that the main delegate and the alternate could alternate attending meetings. He requested a faculty volunteer.

OLD BUSINESS

Emeritus status: At the last Senate meeting Employee Recognition Council's recommendations 2 and 3 were approved but not recommendation 1, as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees should maintain the high standard associated with this program by continuing to exert its proper authority over the Emeritus titling process and setting whatever standards and policies it deems appropriate to uphold the importance and exclusivity of the title(s) it confers on retirees of the College.

Concerns about that recommendation were that there would be a lack of feedback if it was approved and that someone could nix an emeritus recommendation somewhere in the process. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to revise the language of recommendation 1. D. Kelly charged that the language should recognize the promotion processes that candidates have already gone through and should ensure that no one individual could shut down a person's nomination. R. Spetka moved, and W. Perrotti seconded, the motion to form an ad hoc committee. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions. R. Labuz, J. Brown, N. Chrisman, J. Mihevc, and S. Frisbee volunteered to serve on the committee. They will report back to the Senate in November. J. Bullis stated that the President is prepared to take recommendations 2 and 3 to the Board without recommendation 1. He also stated that it is very infrequently that people who are nominated for emeritus status don't get it. W. Perrotti stated that all board members get emeritus status whether they have done a good job or not; therefore, if this is the yardstick that applies to trustees, then the same should apply to employees.

Academic Policies and Standards Committee Report: C. Plescia, committee chair, reported that there have been two meetings. The committee approved the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure on September 6. The committee also approved the acceptance of a C- grade for transfer students. W. Perrotti asked for the rationale behind that decision. C. replied that MVCC's grade of C is inclusive of C+ and C-. R. Labuz stated that C- isn't necessarily a 2.0 in other colleges; some may count it as higher or lower than a 2.0. W. Perrotti felt that by accepting a C- MVCC is cheapening its standards. C- was approved by the Board of Trustees back in the '80s; later the policy was changed. M. Eannace suggested that anyone with concerns should contact C. Plescia or other members of the committee.

Ad hoc Social Justice Committee: W. Perrotti stated that SUNY has a policy about sweatshops, and that SUNY Brockport also has such a policy. He suggested that all ED 100 students must register to vote or that it be a requirement of the college. J. Mihevc pointed out that banning purchasing from certain vendors could make functioning at the college very difficult—for example, obtaining parts for our Dell computers. J. Bullis felt that the committee would be doing a service if it could inform the college community of social justice issues so that people can decide for themselves how they feel. W. Perrotti proposed that an ad hoc committee be formed to develop social justice criteria for the college. J. Mihevc felt the charges for the committee should be more specific. R. Labuz moved, and P. Katchmar seconded, the formation of an ad hoc committee appointed by the Senate Chair, with a charge written by the Senate Chair. The motion carried with none opposed and two abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

Deans on the Senate: D. Kelly stated that it was suggested that the Deans have a voting representative on the Senate. R. Labuz felt that directors should be included as well. W. Perrotti added that they currently aren't a part of either the Cabinet or the Senate. K. Hartman pointed out that in the Senate Bylaws, Article 3.1.1, it

states that 2 of the 7 at-large positions must be non-faculty, which can then include deans and directors. S. Frisbee is an at-large director, and the deans hold faculty rank, so at-large positions may allow them to be Senators. D. Kelly suggested that the Senate Advisory Committee tweak the wording in the bylaws to clarify who “non-faculty” are.

Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure: D. Bogan stated that this policy was borrowed with permission from Canisius College’s policy, and that it is intended to be included in the college catalog and student handbook. The establishment of an Academic Integrity Committee is recommended, without a student on the committee due to privacy issues. Students found guilty of violating the policy must do a tutorial on academic integrity. W. Perrotti suggested that the dean of the center that the course in which the violation was made should also be included when the committee meets with the student. If the dean is in the process and makes the decision as to the consequences the student must face in the case of a second violation, then the student can appeal to the Vice President. S. Frisbee moved, and J. Wilcox seconded, to endorse the policy and procedure. The motion carried, with none opposed and two abstentions.

Supervision of open computer labs: C. Glod commented on the need for better supervision in the open computer lab in the IT building. Bunches of students sit around one computer and are very noisy. Student assistants are reluctant to discipline their peers. Some students are actually afraid to use that computer lab. C. Glod feels that the IT lab should be strictly a study lab. P. Katchmar stated that the lab was designed for 50 computers, but 20 more were added later, and now the lab is simply too crowded. It was suggested that a formal security presence be established in the lab; however, the lab is currently open until 10:00 at night, and security does not walk through now. A. Doughtie asked if some times were worse than others. C. Glod felt that the number of people in the lab should be limited. K. Hartman added that because the problems in the open computer lab have made students reluctant to use it, they come to the library’s computer lab. They are very unhappy when they find that they can’t use the library’s lab because a class is scheduled in it. However, the library’s lab is primarily a classroom, and secondarily an open computer lab. Incidents of rudeness on the part of the disgruntled students are increasing. J. Boulanger suggested turning the open lab into a learning center, which is full of tutors who can monitor what students are doing. However, the learning center currently does not have a budget to allow it to remain open until 10:00. S. Myalik stated that one option explored was to have a desk that students report to when they enter, where their ID is scanned and they are assigned a computer. However, that did not work out. W. Perrotti suggested an ad hoc committee be formed. N. Chrisman moved that D. Kelly appoint an ad-hoc committee to study this problem. J. Baumann seconded the motion. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Elseth moved, and D. Hyldelund seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 by common consensus.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next College Senate meeting will be Tuesday, **November 6, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, October 29, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Senate Recording Secretary

APPENDIX: MARYROSE EANNACE'S VPLAA REPORT

Learning and Academic Affairs Senate Report

October 2, 2012

Let me start by welcoming our newest Academic Dean, Seyed Akhavi, who will be leading our STEM Center in new and wonderful ways. Dean Akhavi comes to us from Dean work at TCI in NYC and prior to that from Dean work at Jefferson Community College in Steubenville, Ohio. His baccalaureate and master's degrees are in Electrical engineering. He began his work here at MVCC yesterday.

Enrollment numbers are still being calculated as our Dual Credit registrations are just beginning to be recorded. However, it is safe to say that we will be down in enrollment for Fall—perhaps around the 4% figure. You may remember that we budgeted for a 1% decrease.

We see this period of leveling off from 5 straight years of increasing enrollment as a great opportunity for a year of addressing important 'big picture' areas. Our 2012-13 academic plan is developed around these three areas:

- **Data Collection and Analysis**—to assess our progress and the results of our pilot programs over the past three years and to plan for a stronger future
- **Implementation of Design Team Recommendations**—although many recommendations have already been implemented, we are in the process of thoroughly reviewing the good work done by so many colleagues to determine what recommendations remain to be implemented. This effort comes with the hiatus in any new Design Teams this year.
- **An analysis of procedures and processes to identify gaps or broken systems with a commitment to discover remedies and bring them forward for implementation.**

Let me give you a few snapshots of some of the projects in the works under the new academic plan:

- Our revised Honors Program is currently serving about 45 students who are enrolled in an Honors version of ED100. This group, in collaboration with students in the Latino Club, held a delightful pre-concert reception before attending the performance of Grupo Pagan—a DGV designated event. Also in accordance with recommendation from the Honors Design Team, Honors course approval is making its way through CWCC for further implementation in the Spring.
- The ED100 Design Team work begins implementation this Spring with scheduling of all ED100 sections in the A term when new students most need the lessons in that course.
- Under the triple-header of data collection and analysis, implementation of Design Team recommendations and the examination of procedures, we will begin the work of academic program prioritization. This is a process that will help us to make data-informed decisions about how we allocate resources—both budgetary and personnel resources--in our academic programs. Although we have always done APRs and POARs to improve programs, we have not necessarily linked those evaluations to the kind of careful budget construction and wise investment of resources that is increasingly critical in constrained economic times. To help us with that planning, we have invited OCC Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Cathleen McColgin, to conduct a workshop for us this week on the system they have adapted from Robert Dickeson's work [Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance](#). As we begin the

planning of our criteria and process, we will look to Senate, the College Wide Curriculum Committee and all of the Academic Unit to help us build and execute the best possible plan.

In the international arena, we had a very engaging conversation with academics from Thailand, who are looking for opportunities to partner with us in teaching and learning exchanges. Our collaborations with Ireland and Scotland continue to move forward as well.

In other news, we will be conducting approximately 15 searches in the academic unit this year—most of which will be underway this Fall, with some not commencing until Spring.

In our continuous improvement of the structure of Learning and Academic Affairs and in response to our December unit survey feedback, we have added 11 new coordinator positions to help build and sustain solid communication within and across the disciplines, among a variety of other responsibilities.

We are working hard with CCED and Adult Services to gear up for a large influx of workers being laid off from Orion who will be eligible for funding for certificate and degree programs. Some of these community members will be ready to start their education pathway with us in January and others may need to start in Summer.

I think everyone has received notice of the Commit, Complete movement, sponsored by our own Phi Theta Kappa students—as part of a national movement led by many organizations. Tomorrow at Rome at o'clock and in Utica at o'clock, there will be a ceremony and signing. Please consider showing up in support—and wearing one of your own alma mater sweatshirts, tee shirts or caps if you have any of those. I also want to add that from the academic unit, we are fully onboard with completion—but we not only want our students to finish—we want them to flourish! It continues to be our goal as we strive for excellence in teaching and learning.

Most important of all in our commitment to our mission is our continuing pursuit of excellence in what we bring to our students and our greater community. So, again, from Academic Affairs to the Senators of MVCC and all you represent—thank you for your most professional and generous support and contributions in making this college a true agent of change for the better!