

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Utica and Rome, New York**

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2013, IT 225**

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

**Present:** J. Baumann, C. Bolton, J. Brown, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, D. Elseth, S. Frisbee, A. Haines-Stephan, K. Hartman, D. Ianno, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, G. Melendez, R. Mink, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, W. Perrotti, R. Pucine, M. Radlowski, J. Rahn, R. Rosero, M. Sorrentino, R. Spetka, M. Treis, G. Warchol, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow, J. Yager, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Student Senator:** S. Teater.

**Absent/Excused:** S. Dar, L. Flynt, C. Miller, and D. Sonne.

**Guests:** D. Amico, A. Doughtie, M. Eannace, S. Engel, M. Henningsen, D. Katz, S. McCall, J. Myers, M. Pearson, R. Quest, S. Reynolds, N. Rosero, and T. Squires.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

C. Bolton moved, and J. Wilcox seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013, meeting with one small correction. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

D. Kelly introduced some of the new senators and announced that Gail Warchol would be replacing Jake Mihevc as representative from CCED. He also stated that student senator Devin Sonne would not be able to attend Senate meetings this semester due to a conflict with her class schedule, so Starlette Teater would be her replacement. D. Kelly is in the process of verifying committee memberships and will get them up on the web site as soon as he is finished. He also announced that he will be attending the Faculty Council of Community Colleges' upcoming conference at Herkimer County Community College.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

S. Teater reported that the first Student Congress meeting of the academic year has already been held. D. Sonne requests that she be notified via the Student Congress President email address if any committees still need student representatives.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President VanWagoner stated that the 4% decline in enrollment that the college budgeted for in this academic year looks so far like it will not be that large. Funds had been taken out of this academic year's budget from the equipment and renovations budgets to make up for it.

President VanWagoner encouraged everyone to attend the Richard Florida lecture on September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stanley Theater. The lecture will be based on his book *The Rise of the Creative Class* (available at the Utica Campus Library).

W. Perrotti mentioned two rumors that he has heard on campus. One is that in order to be appointed to a committee you have to have had StrengthsQuest training. The President said that was not true. The other rumor is that mentoring will only be done by faculty with at least four years of experience. Again, the President said that this is not true.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

T. Squires reported on a number of projects being done around campus, including sealing on the outside of the Jorgensen Center, more work in the locker rooms, installing two new boilers in the IT building, new computers in labs in IT, AB, Plumley, and the Rome Campus Library, renovation of the Resident Dining Hall, and new podiums, chairs, and tables for the front of all classrooms in the Academic Building. He stated that work will begin on repairing the Payne Hall overhang and columns, and that options will be considered for sealing the PH podium rather than completely replacing it. The county's Capital Projects Committee will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> to vote on which projects, MVCC's among them, it will approve funding for. MVCC has asked for funds to renovate the Plumley building on the Rome Campus and to attach a new academic building to it. Other projects MVCC has requested funding for include parking renovation and expansion and resurfacing the track and tennis courts. T. Squires then introduced D. Amico, the new Director of Public Safety and Emergency Services. He also announced that a new campus security officer, Mohammed Atiyeh, has been hired, and that there are currently openings for two more security positions. K. Hartman asked that, when looking at epoxy as a sealant on the PH podium, consideration be given to any extra slipperiness that that might cause. K. Hartman also asked that, when choosing students and faculty to test new chairs, consideration be given to heavier individuals who need extra room and whose circulation may be cut off by seats angled too sharply upward. S. Engel asked about the progress of shelter in place emergency plans. T. Squires replied that those are being developed now.

#### **MORE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

D. Kelly interjected at this point that there are student/faculty surveys on classroom furniture that can be looked at. He also stated that he received an email on the smoking issue, which he will forward to the Safety and Security Committee. The complaint this time is that the current policy is not being enforced. S. Teater suggested either the presence of a security officer at the Academic Building entrance at peak times or painting a line that represents 25 feet so that students will know how far back they have to be to smoke.

D. Kelly also stated that he asked M. Eannace to report at the next Senate meeting about two things-- the reorganization and the VPLAA's newly formed advisory council. M. Eannace at this time explained that the official name is Council to the Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs. It has a tentative charter, which charges that it will look for ways to be more innovative and facilitate communication. It consists of nine members, of which two to three will rotate yearly.

#### **FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT**

R. Labuz requested Senate endorsement of the FCCC resolution on seamless transfer, in which they are requesting that the 64-credit program limit be restricted to A.A. and A.S. degrees. A.A.S. and A.O.S. degrees are not designed to transfer and therefore should be left out of this limit. W. Perrotti moved to endorse the resolution; N. Chrisman seconded. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions. R. Labuz added that there is a Director of Seamless Transfer in the Chancellor's office who will be in charge of overseeing the process.

R. Labuz also presented an FCCC letter to Chancellor Zimpher requesting clarification of the wording in her draft Memorandum to Presidents entitled "Guidance: Non-Credit Remedial Courses Eligible for State Aid." This was just for the edification of the Senate.

M. Treis asked if the problem of acceptance of D grades was being addressed. R. Labuz responded in the negative, stating that this was a matter of choice for individual campuses.

R. Labuz announced the creation of two new Chancellor's Awards—one for adjunct teaching and one for shared governance.

R. Labuz reported that at the FCCC Plenary in the spring MVCC Trustee David Mathis gave a presentation encouraging FCCC members to make presentations to their Boards/Cabinets about FCCC functions. R. Labuz stated that he would be doing so.

W. Perrotti stated that he read somewhere that health/nursing students are not being encouraged to take their basic science courses at community colleges. He asked R. Labuz if this matter could be discussed at the next FCCC meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ad hoc Curriculum/College Catalog Committee: D. Kelly explained that this committee was formed in response to problems coordinating the timeline for creation/publication of the College Catalog and the work of the College-Wide Curriculum Committee in approving new courses and programs. Membership of this committee consists of Steve Frisbee (Chair of the Curriculum Committee), Robert Christman (Chair of the General Education Committee), Jim Sunderhaft (Registrar's office), Paul Katchmar (Information Technology), Kendrick Morrison (Admissions), Dawson McDermott (Advisement), Walter Constantini (Rome Campus), Rich Pucine (VPLAA's Office), and Rich Haubert (Marketing). The committee still lacks one or two faculty and a student. Ric Rosero and Mildred Treis volunteered to serve. D. Kelly stated that Justin Rahn had agreed to facilitate the initiation of the committee. They will look at not only the timeline, but also at the question of what the catalog is or should be.

Status of Periodic Review Report: N. Rosero presented a PowerPoint outlining the results of the Self-Study submitted in 2008 and the Periodic Review Report, submitted June 1, 2013. MVCC did well on the Self-Study. The examination of the Periodic Review Report produced one suggestion and three recommendations. They suggested the implementation of a tool to determine the effectiveness of the civility initiative. They recommended developing a succession plan for filling in the gap left by retiring employees. They also recommended the development of a training workshop for budget unit managers relative to the budgetary support of the strategic plan supported by assessment data. Lastly, they recommended that MVCC make the budget process more concise and refined. The Commission will decide on MVCC's accreditation at their November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. D. Kelly stated that he would contact the chair of the Civility Committee to see if they can assist with the Commission's suggestion.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

College policy on lowering the college flag: W. Perrotti asked if there were any policy on lowering the college flag. He felt that if any member of the college community dies it should be lowered to half staff. President VanWagoner replied that there is currently no such policy. M. Radlowski added that he would like, in the creation of this policy, a plan for notifying the community as to why the college flag (or the state or U.S. flag) is being lowered. S. Reynolds requested that the policy should include any students who may perish. D. Kelly responded that he will draft a charter and let the Senate Advisory Committee review it for presentation at the next Senate meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

R. Spetka moved, and K. Capuana seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The next College Senate meeting will be **Tuesday, October 1, 2013, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225**.

The next Senate Advisory Committee meeting will be Monday, September 23, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman  
Recording Secretary