

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

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, November 4, 2014, IT 225

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

**Present:** J. Baumann, C. Bolton, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, J. Coleman, S. Dar, A. Doughtie, D. Elseth, A. Haines-Stephan, K. Hartman, M. Henningsen, D. Ianno, L. Kahler, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, M. Leahy, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, R. Mink, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, W. Perrotti, A. Radlowski, J. Rahn, R. Spetka, M. Treis, G. Warchol, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow, and President R. VanWagoner.

**Student Senators:** M. Tyoe.

**Absent/Excused:** J. Brown, J. Livadas, C. Miller, M. Radlowski, R. Rosero, and M. Taverne.

**Guests:** J. Boulanger, F. DuRoss, M. Eannace, S. Engel, D. Ferro-Aurience, S. Frisbee, R. Haubert, D. Katz, S. McCall, S. Reynolds, N. Rosero, T. Squires, R. Suhr, and S. Zohne.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

D. Ianno moved, and S. Myalik seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2014, meeting. The motion passed with no objections and no abstentions.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

D. Kelly announced that Tina Good, President of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, would be visiting MVCC on Tuesday, November 11, and would like to meet for lunch with the Senate Advisory Committee at noon that day. She will be meeting with other groups on campus later in afternoon.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

M. Tyoe reported that Student Congress is trying to get clubs to spend less money by combining clubs to sponsor an event. Student Congress bought a sign for their office door to make it easier for people to find them. The Rome Campus has a new student representative (V.P.), Robin Sullivan. Elliott Sharrow and Rachel Dominic were unable to come to today's Senate meeting to talk about the smoking policy; instead, they will come to the December Senate meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President R. VanWagoner presented the Heart of the Hawk Award to Ron Labuz and the Pride of the Hawk Award to Deanna Ferro-Aurience. He announced that there will be three campus conversations coming up next week on the budget and enrollment. Two conversations, on Monday and Tuesday, will be on the Utica Campus; the third will be on the Rome Campus. Enrollment is down 9.4% this month as opposed to 12+% last month. He also announced that the Think Tank will transition into a group with a different focus and a few more faculty members. W. Perrotti asked what the policy is for replacing retiring faculty, as there are several retiring this fall. M. Eannace replied that they may delay the hiring process until early spring, when there will be more candidates. Searches have to be started before the budget is passed.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

S. Reynolds announced that Annette Broski, the Director of Financial Aid, will be retiring at the end of January, and commented on her contributions to MVCC. Students defaulting on financial aid payments have decreased some 2%. The college is participating in a SUNY-wide Ebola Task Force, which meets weekly. The LGBTQ&A community has requested gender-neutral restrooms. A Title 9 Violence Against Women overview was presented to the Board of Trustees. The college must comply with it by July 2015. Student and Academic Affairs are collaborating on finding internships for students. Question is raised as to whether the Intercultural Community Conversations Committee can assume some of the functions that were assigned to the Civility Committee. For her complete report, see Appendix I of these minutes.

D. Kelly asked the Senate's permission to deal with the status of the Civility Committee now rather than later in the meeting, under Old Business. He announced that he continues to explore how this issue developed, what research was done, and what the Civility Committee has done so far. He has spoken with the Student Congress Executive Committee, particularly with student Derek Nekritz, who was active in it at the start, and Kim Overrocker, the current chair of the Civility Committee. He will keep the Senate posted on further developments.

## **FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES (FCCC) REPORT**

R. Labuz attended the FCCC fall plenary conference in October. He presented five resolutions passed by the FCCC-- four for the Senate's information, and one for Senate approval.

The Resolution Supporting "Rational Revenue Plan" for the Community Colleges asked the state for an increase in money per FTE in order to bring the state's contribution toward community college financial support closer to what the state originally promised to give (one third). R. Labuz moved, and W. Perrotti seconded, to endorse the resolution. The motion passed with none opposed and no abstentions.

The other four resolutions were for the Senate's information. The Resolution in Support for Campus Child Care Funding requests an increase in the amount of funding for campus child care to bring it up to what it was and then to increase it above that. The Resolution in Support of a Waiver Appeals Process in the Seamless Transfer Resolution Initiative requests an appeals process for any proposed waivers of the 64-credit limit on degree programs that are turned down. The Resolution on 64-Credit Limit for A.A.S. and A.O.S. Degrees reaffirms the FCCC's earlier resolution that A.A.S. and A.O.S. programs be exempt from the 64-credit limit. The Resolution on Clarity on Compelling Justifications in the Waiver Process reaffirms the FCCC's request to develop "clear criteria for issuing waivers for seamless transfer requirements."

R. Labuz stated that Tina Good, President of the FCCC, feels that some FCCC resolutions just need to be endorsed by college senates, while it would be better in the case of other resolutions for individual college senates to draft their own resolutions to SUNY, as three other community colleges have done. R. Labuz provided the resolution that Orange County Community College drafted on the issue of 64-credit limit on A.A.S. and A.O.S. programs. Even if SUNY is unwavering on these issues, it is still good for community colleges to voice their opinions. R. Labuz also stated that the 64-credit limit has been law since 1965, but has never been enforced.

As to the issue of what happens to those colleges that do not comply by January 2015, Tina Good has stated that those colleges not in compliance will be "helped" into compliance, and that all colleges must be in compliance by fall 2015. Nassau Community College's Board of Trustees has agreed to comply,

though their faculty may not agree. (See Appendix II of the October 7, 2014, Senate minutes for Tina Good's full response on this issue.)

It was pointed out the 64 seems to be an arbitrary number. If the goal is to graduate students within 2 years, why can't programs be 65 or 66 credits as long as the students graduate in 2 years?

W. Perrotti moved, and J. Baumann seconded, to form a committee involving faculty, students, and administrators, to draft resolutions on the 64-credit limit, on the waiver process, and on child care funding. R. Labuz noted that the committee has to work quickly, drafting something by the next Senate meeting. The motion carried with one opposed and no abstentions. D. Kelly asked for volunteers to serve on this committee. J. Woodrow, W. Perrotti, R. Labuz, and J. Baumann volunteered. M. Tyoe will seek a student representative for this committee.

Other news from the plenary: The Governance Committee of the FCCC produced a white paper on academic freedom which will be provided to the Senators. Tompkins County Community College is conducting a pilot study on renting e-textbooks in order to keep costs down for students. Our bookstore is not on the leading edge. So far the study has found that if students are able to rent a textbook rather than go without they have a better chance of retention. Something will be passed on performance-based funding later this month. There are five pots of funding based on factors such as retention, completion, success, student engagement, and access. (See the attached draft SUNY Excels Performance System Worksheet.)

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

D. Kelly reported on two matters that came up at the September Senate meeting. First, he and M. Leahy have been working with people from IT to create a directory of employees including faculty office hours. Second, they are also working on a directory of the various kinds of trainings that employees need and who can provide them. D. Kelly also reported that he continues to have discussions with the Academic Policies and Procedures Committee and the College-Wide Curriculum Committee concerning the process for making changes in curriculum.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Employee Engagement Transcript: D. Katz described the proposed Employee Engagement Transcript, which would list all the trainings taken, conferences attended, etc. —things done for professional growth and collegiality—for each employee. It will help the college tabulate how many people have attended mandatory trainings—not the names, but the number of people—for accountability purposes. Question was raised if this would be used to monitor or watch employees (i.e., “Big Brother”). This transcript would be password protected, and deans and supervisors would not have access to it. P. Katchmar has begun the IT process for this transcript. Question was raised as to why it needed to be computerized. P. Katchmar responded so that reminders can be generated for trainings that need to be taken periodically, every two or three years. D. Katz stated that employees have the option of not using the system to record their non-mandatory trainings and other professional development activities needed for promotion. He requested that Senators take this information back to their constituencies for discussion, and asked that any questions or comments be sent to him.

Establishment of SUNY Shared Governance Award: Tabled until the December meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

D. Kelly announced that Recording Secretary K. Hartman will be updating the Senate web page.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

P. Katchmar moved, and J. Woodrow seconded, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, November 24, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista E. Hartman  
Recording Secretary

## **APPENDIX I: VP REYNOLDS' REPORT**

### **Senate Report November 2014**

Although many of you may have heard by word of mouth, it is with a great deal of appreciation that I announce to the Senate the retiring of Annette Broski, the Director of Financial Aid. Annette is a very private person and had asked that this news be word of mouth rather than a campus wide announcement which I have honored but I did request to let this body know in a public fashion. Annette has been a professional at this institution for 20 years and has led a department that is vital to this College and the students that attend. Anyone that has worked with Annette would describe her as a quiet and impressive fund of knowledge dedicated to providing quality service to students and interested in modeling the same for her office and the students that interact with them. While we have begun the posting and screening committee processes, these are large shoes that we have to fill and we will take great care in making sure that the level of professionalism that we have become accustomed to is maintained. Annette will be with us through the end of January.

With respect to Financial Aid, the three year cohort default rate for fiscal year 2011 across community colleges was 20.6. This is a decrease from 20.9. MVCC, however improved much more dramatically going from 19.7 to 17.3. There were several strategic steps that the Financial Office initiated to impact this and I credit the kind of leadership that Annette has provided to move from creative ideas to implementation that serves the students and the College well.

The College has been a member of a SUNY-wide Ebola Task Force whose purpose has been to understand the current and changing regulations and to equip Health Centers and other key stakeholders with essential information.

The LGBTQ&A Committee made a recommendation regarding the need for gender neutral restrooms on both campuses when the semester opened in September. For those that may be unaware, a gender neutral restroom provides a safe space for LGBTQ students and employees as well as makes a visible statement that we are cognizant of and pay attention to the needs for creating an environment that is

welcoming of all people. Several single stall, lockable restrooms have been identified and signage has been ordered.

A Title IX overview was recently provided to the Board of Trustees. There is a confluence of policies, Title IX, Violence Against Women and the Clery Act that require that the College is fully compliant with Federal regulations by July, 2015. A Title IX team has been identified and the roles and responsibilities of those team members is being determined. As changes to policy or procedures occur, the College community will be informed. If the Senate would like a Title IX overview to feel more informed just let either Kim Evans-Dame or myself know.

The Intercultural Community Conversations continued in September and we are now positioned to have focus groups with students. There has been a group of 20 identified as the grass roots committee. The purpose of this committee continues to be refined as we meet. To date, the consensus has been that we need to understand and appreciate that we are a community built upon differences. Our community needs to be a place where all people who learn and work here feel valued and important and our work initially lies in understanding people's experiences as they learn and work here and then determining our priorities. Our goal will be to enhance the environment where consideration of one another, regardless of individual difference is the foundation. This is something to consider as we evaluate the Civility Committee. Don Kelly, Kim Overrocker and I have had conversations about the fact that the Civility Committee was formed around the perception of a problem. We have a civility problem and it must be addressed. As the Intercultural Community Committee tackles the value, importance and respect of others, could this group easily incorporate what was the Civility committee's work and take it from the negative angle to a positive one? It is something to think about as Don works to better understand why all of the variables that contributed to the need for a Civility Senate Committee.

Finally, I want to share that there has been a great collaboration between Student and Academic Affairs as a centralized internship process is being developed. This has been a long term goal to provide one location where students and employers can begin the process of pursuing an internship. The logical workflow has been identified, partnering career services with the academic faculty, assistant deans and deans. While still in development phase, the steps that have been taken have moved us from concept to process and I would like to acknowledge the work of the Deans, Jim Maio and Tom Zenon.