

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 5, 2016, IT 225

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

Present: S. Akhavi, J. Baumann, C. Bolton, J. Brown, K. Capone, K. Capuana, L. Charbonneau, J. Coleman, A. Doughtie, S. Frisbee, A. Haines-Stephan, M. Henningsen, L. Kahler, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, R. Labuz, J. Livadas, R. Manley, D. McDermott, M. McHarris, C. Miller, R. Mink, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, M. Radlowski, J. Rahn, J. Roberts, R. Santos, N. Snyder, R. Spetka, M. Sykes, T. Townsley, M. Treis, G. Warchol, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow.

Student Senators: K. Hiltz, A. Kalishniak, and E. Luther.

Absent/Excused: S. Dar, D. Elseth, K. Hartman, J. Lowman, R. VanWagoner.

Guests: M. Eannace, D. Katz, J. Maio, S. Reynolds, M. Snyder, and T. Squires.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

M. Sykes moved, and J. Baumann seconded, to approve the minutes of the March 1st, 2016, meeting. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Kelly began by welcoming Ms. Nhe Thi Su, who is visiting from Kien Giang Community College.

FCCC selected J. Baumann to the regional council. There will be four initiating meetings, with the first on April 16th. If there are questions or concerns, contact J. Baumann.

D. Kelly thanked those who have responded to the call for nominations for the spring Senate elections. The Nominating Committee has contacted all committee members whose terms are expiring. Those who are interested, or who know somebody who is interested in serving on a Senate committee, should contact J. Rahn via email. All efforts are being made so that all positions will have at least one nominee on the ballot. Additionally, members interested in a Senate Office position or in serving on Senate Advisory should contact the Nominating Committee prior to the first meeting in May. This is, in part, to avoid an electronic vote over the summer (which was done last year). Lastly, the proposed redesign of the Academic Unit with the proposed changes regarding centers and a department structure will have a significant impact on representation on Senate and Senate committees and councils, and will need to be addressed in the Fall.

The proposed change to the Academic Freedom Statement has been presented to the Board of Trustees for the first reading at the March meeting, and it is expected that they will vote on and approve it at the next meeting.

Lastly, the second meeting in May has been proposed for Monday, May 16th at 2:30pm in IT 225. The general consensus from the Senate was that this date and time would work.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

E. Luther related that J. Lowman was unable to be at Senate today (along with R. VanWagoner) as he is receiving a Chancellor's Award. E. Luther then updated the Senate on the progress of his proposal for student clubs to engage in a community service activity. He brought his idea before Student Congress and the Judiciary Board to devise a tentative plan, which will be voted on on Thursday. Although the precise language is still being worked on, the current proposal is to limit club funds to \$2,500 until they have scheduled a recruitment or community service event (clubs typically receive \$1000 and are allowed to request additional funds). If the event is not scheduled by the eighth week then the club will not be awarded additional funds. The event can take place after the first eight weeks of the semester, but it must be scheduled by the eighth week. The recruitment or community service event should also have at least five club members and one advisor in attendance.

Lastly, E. Luther introduced A. Kalishniak, who hopes to be the next president of Student Congress.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

R. VanWagoner was unable to be at Senate due to the Chancellor's Awards.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

S. Reynolds reported that much has been going on regarding student success.

Achieving the Dream

The Cross-College team attended the Dream Conference in February and determined our need to focus on equity at MVCC. The Core Team will distribute three surveys in the fall (one to the administration and staff; one to instructional staff for professional development; one to students). The results will be compiled by San Diego University and will be shared in January at the third annual data summit.

Grants

Since 2014, we've been strategic about leveraging ATD with grant opportunities to examine success rates for the students we serve. For example, the 18 gateway courses identified by ATD became the 18 courses to develop PGP toolkits. The Community Schools Grant aligns well with the Learning Commons in its attention to providing low-income students with wraparound services for success. The SUNY Career Services Grant will give access to technology tools to assist in breaking barriers for low-income students as well, helping with transfer into the right program the first time, building a resume or portfolio to compete with higher-income students, etc. The Office of Civil Rights recognized all this integrational effort and would like to use MVCC as an example to other institutions.

Career/Transfer

We are currently working to connect to employers and transfer schools. Recently 26 employers and 150 students attended the Career Fair in Rome. The Criminal Justice Expo has 83 employers and 38 agencies scheduled to attend tomorrow, and we are anticipating 750 students. The Transfer Fair today has 72 schools registered from SUNY, PA, MA, VT, and CT. There will be another Transfer Fair held on the Rome campus, with 10 schools registered.

Genesis Group

Held in conjunction with BOCES, there will be the first ever Oneida County Career Fair for over 1,500 ninth graders on April 14th. Over fifty professionals will provide insight on what they do on a daily basis, and we will discuss with students how they can use their time at MVCC strategically to move forward into career pathways.

Veterans Services Breakfast

Invitations are being sent out to approximately forty individuals who work with our veterans. The event will be held on May 4th.

A.S.A.P.

The self-directed workgroup is striving to encourage greater continuing student participation in the scheduling process. Last year memes were used across campus, and this year they are using a theme inspired by “Bat Dad.”

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

R. Labuz will be attending the Conference Thursday–Saturday at Niagara Falls Community College. The state budget news is unfortunate. We asked for \$285/FTE increment in the resolution but received, as we have for the past couple of years, \$100/FTE. Because of lower enrollment, we are not receiving as much money as we did last year.

OLD BUSINESS

Applied Learning Faculty Engagement Report

L. Kahler updated the Senate on the state of the Applied Learning Report, due to SUNY by April 15th. He met with D. Kelly and C. Miller for Faculty Caucus, as well as the President’s cabinet, to get information and feedback from the college community. Please get any feedback to L. Kahler by Friday, April 8th, so that everything is prepared by the deadline. Regarding this report, L. Kahler commented that the questions were not difficult to answer because we already have systems in place for many of the questions asked. For example, in response to “How will faculty be compensated for applied learning attached to classes?” we were able to respond, “The collective bargaining agreement outlines how they’re compensated.” In response to, “How would you recognize faculty members and staff for their efforts in applied learning?” we were able to reply with the several awards that we already have in place.

The next report is due in May 2017. That report will have three parts: a feasibility study, a collaboration report, and ultimately the question of whether or not MVCC will require applied learning for graduation. A concern about whether there may be any curveballs in the future was expressed, to which L. Kahler responded that so far, SUNY has done what they’ve said they’d do, with the only downfall being that occasionally they give short notice on things. For example, we do not yet have materials for the feasibility study. However there will be a conference some time after the 15th, so he hopes to hear about that soon. Once the materials are received, L. Kahler will share with D. Kelly, C. Miller, and President VanWagoner.

Language Regarding Delayed Opening

Last month there was a discussion regarding the language used in the timing of the delayed opening due to inclement weather. M. Snyder has prepared some language to appear in the case of delayed opening in the future so that the College will open as closely aligned to the start of class times as possible, with anything happening during the overlapping hour to commence when the campus opens. This would apply to outside clinicals as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Microcredentialing at MVCC

J. Lowman and C. Pulquerio approached T. Thomas with questions concerning microcredentials. The three of them wrote a white paper introducing a vision for the role microcredentials could play at the College, and T. Thomas presented on their work with the hopes of bringing more people into the conversation. He presented a brief background on microcredentials, and explained that there is no uniform approach across the various

schools already implementing them. For example, Stafford and Stony Brook use them as a post-graduate opportunity. They could be used as a way to provide personal and professional development opportunities for students who don't have any prior educational experiences. Some ideas of possible microcredentials in culinary and entrepreneurship that could happen at MVCC were presented. These microcredentials fit into the Strategic Plan, as they could be a new pathway to completion and might recruit a different type of student, advancing diversity and inclusiveness. However, there are numerous unanswered questions, including financial aid considerations, how they would be represented on a transcript, and whether or not businesses would support this endeavor. As a next step, T. Thomas would like a design/implementation team charter to answer these questions and to write a plan.

A lively conversation followed, with some questions including: Who is the target audience? Would microcredentials adequately incorporate reading, writing, and thinking in addition to the particular skills? Would credit be awarded and, if so, how? If not, how is this different from CCED? Would this drain a student's financial aid if it doesn't lead to a degree? Would microcredentials "stack" to form a certificate or degree? Some additional insights included: Community colleges are about more things than just degrees, so microcredentials are one more way to embrace other types of educational experiences. Some schools have lists of competencies in lieu of transcripts, and accrediting agencies such as TAC of ABET are looking more at knowledge and skills, and less at classes. Microcredentials could be a way to help students work through foundational and developmental courses, potentially breaking a course into modules so students can focus on trouble areas without having to work through already mastered content repeatedly.

R. Labuz moved (M. Sykes seconded) that Faculty Caucus create a design proposal to determine how to move forward with microcredentials, by end of Fall 2016. Some discussion followed, and Faculty Caucus would need to hear from financial aid and students, in addition to faculty, when determining the design proposal. The motion was approved with 25 votes in favor and 5 abstentions.

Amendments to IT Procedures Guide

P. Katchmar has updated the IT Procedures Guide. When he first updated it in 2010, it originally made references to punch cards and predated the personal computer. Some things that have changed since the last update include information about tablets, cellphones, and wifi. The standard has moved to Windows 7 and Office 2013. The language has also been updated regarding email for retirees and encryption for secure email transmissions, as well as storage quotas and how accounts are added or deleted. Language concerning DegreeWorks, Onbase, imaging, Argos, and other programs has been updated as well. P. Katchmar asked for endorsement from the Senate, to pass on to the President's cabinet and the Board of Trustees. R. Santos moved to endorse and J. Roberts seconded. All voted in favor, with 1 abstention.

Faculty Caucus

C. Miller reported that there was a presentation on the academic redesign, a budget update from Randy, and a presentation from Matt Snyder on wayfinding and signage at the last Faculty Caucus meeting. There was some conversation about applied learning, but did not focus on it since L. Kahler would be presenting to the Senate. At the end of the meeting, it was expressed that sometimes a lot of time is spent on presentations without much time to discuss the information. A new protocol was discussed, so that if somebody wants to have Faculty Caucus discuss a topic, send it to Christine for Caucus to discuss. Then, if more information is required, involved parties could be invited to an additional meeting. That being said, there may at times be items that have to happen faster than a two meeting turnover, but overall the consensus was that more time is needed for discussing items instead of being presented items.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM SENATE MEMBERS

B. Molinaro expressed a concern regarding the \$100/FTE increase when \$285/FTE was requested. Overall this will result in about a \$200,000 decrease and brings us to an equivalent funding level as 2007/2008. Not only is the depletion of funds a significant issue, but this decision was made despite four community colleges from FCCC, as well as representatives from the President's Group, the Trustee's Group, students, and other county associations banding together and discussing the issues with Albany. The state legislature does not see us as a priority, and it's frustrating.

ADJOURNMENT

M. McHarris moved, and J. Baumann seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m. by common consensus.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, April 25, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Radlowski