

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 3, 2015, IT 225

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

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

Student Senators: E. Chwazik, J. Lowman, and E. Luther.

Absent/Excused: K. Capone, J. Coleman, S. Dar, D. Elseth, M. Henningsen, J. Livadas, R. Manley and J. Roberts.

Guests: N. Chrisman, M. Eannace, D. Ianno, S. McCall, D. Nackley, C. Plescia, N. Rosero, S. Reynolds, 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

R. Santos moved, and C. Bolton seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015, meeting. The motion carried, with none opposed and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

D. Kelly welcomed new Senator N. Snyder. The Ad hoc Academic Freedom Statement Committee will be discussing its revised statement with the Cabinet, academic deans, Faculty Caucus, and Senate Advisory Committee before submitting it to the Senate.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

E. Luther reported that the Student Congress Nominating Committee has appointed many students to college and Senate committees. Some are yet to be filled. Student Congress is also investigating complaints about the disciplinary appeals process and information about how it works. This may result in a recommendation to the Senate at a later date.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President VanWagoner presented the Heart of the Hawk Award to David Nackley and the Pride of the Hawk Award to Nolan Snyder. He will be attending the SUNY Board meeting on November 4-5; information on the development of next year's state budget may be available. Plans for legislative advocacy will be discussed. A new data coach has been appointed for the Achieving the Dream Initiative.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VP Eannace stated that 72% of MVCC's courses were taught by full-time faculty and 28% by adjuncts during the past academic year. The class fill rate as of mid-September was 79.9%. The number of sections offered this fall were reduced by 8%. Both SUNY and the state have approved MVCC's partnership with SUNY Oneonta to offer "2 + 2" education program at the Utica campus. Oneonta is also interested in partnering with MVCC's hospitality and theatre programs. Other university partnerships will be coming.

The college was awarded a \$2.27 million Title III grant over five years for our Pathways to Graduation proposal. The money will support initiatives identified by the Achieving the Dream reports. Virtual toolkits will be built for eighteen gateway courses, three in the first year and the rest in the next four years. A learning commons will be created in part of the space where the open lab is now in the IT building. Many computers will remain in that lab, while the rest will be distributed amongst smaller labs and the library. Some classrooms will be taken for the new learning center space. The old child care center space may be turned into classrooms. A math lab and a writing lab will be built into the learning commons. There may also be a small lab for the ESL and international students. The college will hire a "completion coach" this year, with four more in subsequent years, for working with students with academic problems. They will be housed in the learning commons. Each coach will have a case load of students specifically identified as academically at-risk by software to be purchased, but will also be available to help any student with a problem. Predictive analytics software may be purchased as well. D. Kelly asked if he could periodically check with M. Eannace for updates to report to the Senate before her next formal report in February.

FACULTY COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES REPORT

R. Labuz attended the FCCC Fall Plenary two weeks ago at Rockland Community College and reported on five activities there.

- 1) The FCCC passed a Rational Funding Resolution, requesting an addition in state aid/FTE to bring base aid up to the 2006-2007 level. The FCCC has requested colleges to endorse this resolution. A. Doughtie moved, and S. Frisbee seconded, to endorse this resolution. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.
- 2) The Student Assembly passed a resolution on credit-bearing unpaid internships. The FCCC passed a resolution in support of the Student Assembly resolution.
- 3) SUNY established a Social Media Responsibility Task Force, which has issued a report and recommendations on the use of social media in the classroom. To date, this report has received no faculty input. The FCCC is considering this report and may draft a resolution regarding its recommendations.
- 4) The FCCC is working on a resolution regarding the inclusion of campus governance in grant-funded initiatives.
- 5) A recent SUNY news release on issuance of "microcredentials" or "digital badges" was received and is under discussion. For the full article see: <https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/october-2015/10-29-15-micro-credentials/chancellor-zimpher-announces-suny-effort-to-expand-micro-credentials-for-students.html>

D. Kelly will report on all of this at the November Board meeting. The Faculty Caucus will also be discussing it.

NEW BUSINESS

Academic Policies and Standards Committee: Cheryl Plescia presented proposed changes to the membership of the APSC. Instead of 6 faculty they requested 7 (5 elected from each of the Centers, 2 appointed). They eliminated the Director of Academic Systems and the Dean of the Rome Campus positions, and combined the Student Services representative and the Assistant Dean of Enrollment into one position representing Student Services. They also changed the student position to non-voting. This would bring the total number of members to 14 rather than 16. They also requested that the positions be 3-year rather than 2-year terms, to bring them in line with the rest of the Senate committee term lengths.

C. Plescia indicated that the people representing the eliminated positions could always be invited back if needed. She also stated that this committee has had a problem getting a quorum, and that the student representative either doesn't show up or there is none appointed. E. Luther replied that he was unaware of the need for a representative on this committee. He also felt that the student position should be a voting position. After further discussion, D. Kelly suggested that the Senate, APSC, and Student Congress should talk further on this before voting on the new membership for the committee. J. Woodrow moved, and M. Sykes seconded, to table the discussion. The motion carried with none opposed and no abstentions.

Faculty Caucus: C. Miller reported that the Faculty Caucus has had two meetings since the last Senate meeting. She reported that the Rome campus will be making a decision on new faculty desks. The Faculty Caucus had the opportunity to examine three examples and selected one. As faculty use this new furniture in Rome their experiences should be shared when choosing new furniture in Utica. The Faculty Caucus, which has agreed to serve in reviewing emerging educational trends, identified four issues: performance-based funding, applied learning, seamless transfer, and competency-based learning. R. Labuz passed along faculty concerns about the bookstore to the appropriate people. He indicated that there will be a January Institute session on the bookstore. The Faculty Caucus also discussed the progress report from the Ad hoc Academic Freedom Statement Committee and the topic of "trigger warnings" (warnings to students about course content which could trigger anxiety in them).

Campus safety: D. Kelly expressed concern about campus safety in the wake of the shootings at Umpqua Community College in Oregon in October. He spoke to Dave Amico about this, who stated that Public Safety has contacted Student Congress about extending Active Shooter Training to students. D. Amico also stated that Public Safety has been developing an Emergency Operations Plan, which will be tested with a number of tabletop exercises in the coming year, the first of which will be on November 20th on the Utica campus and will involve members of the Crisis Management Committee, Public Safety, and other emergency responders. A second exercise will be conducted on the Rome campus in January or February and will include student participants. A third exercise later in the year will include a limited-scale drill and will involve faculty and staff.

ADJOURNMENT

K. Capuana moved, and D. McDermott seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by common consensus at 4:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, November 23, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Hartman
Recording Secretary