

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

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, May 2, 2017, IT 225

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

**Present:** J. Baumann, L. Charbonneau, S. Dar, J. Dewan, A. Doughtie, S. Frisbee, A. Haines-Stephan, M. Henningsen R. Huyck, D. Hyldelund, R. Jubenville, P. Katchmar, D. Kelly, S. Kenyon, D. McDermott, S. McGovern, C. Miller, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, J. Rahn, J. Roberts, R. Santos, B. Scantlebury, G. Searles, N. Snyder, R. Spetka, M. Sykes, R. VanWagoner, and G. Warchol

**Student Senators:** A. Kalashnik, D. Kulev, and J. Rothrock

**Absent/Excused:** K. Capone, D. Gibbons, P. Lotto, M. McHarris, T. Palumbo, and J. Wilcox

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**REVIEW & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

M. Henningsen moved and R. Spetka seconded to approve the minutes of the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

A. Haines began his report by discussing the College Senate Assessment Review. Aside from the website not being consistently updated (due to a transition to a new secretary), we are mostly completing the goals. The website should be updated soon.

A. Haines then congratulated those faculty and staff members who received promotion or continuing appointment, and commented that Senate elections are now open until May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Chairperson expressed appreciation to those who have served on the Senate over the last year, with a special thanks to D. Kelly for his guidance. Additionally, A. Haines is still seeking nominations for next year's Senate (chair, vice chair, and advisory). Please email A. Haines if interested.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

A. Kalashnik expressed her gratitude for being given the opportunity to speak on behalf of the student body over the course of the last year, and introduced the new president of Student Congress, Jennifer Rothrock. A. Haines thanked A. Kalashnik for her service.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President VanWagoner began by presenting the Heart of the Hawk and the Pride of the Hawk awards to Troy Little and Mary Noti, respectively.

The President then commented that the budget will be up for approval at the Board meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. He will give a more detailed budget update at the Senate meeting on that date, if desired. In the meantime, there will be a public forum on the Excelsior Program (vis-à-vis free college tuition) tentatively scheduled for 6:00pm on May 8<sup>th</sup> in the Jorgensen Center, as well as on the Rome Campus.

Summer Institute will begin on May 16<sup>th</sup>, on the Rome campus. Morning sessions will be repeated in the afternoon to allow offices to remain staffed while also enabling interested members of the College community to attend the Institute. Institute sessions will be on the Utica campus the following day. There will be no shuttle service to Rome on the 16<sup>th</sup>. D. Katz explained that those who work on the Utica campus who wish to attend the morning sessions can commute directly to Rome, and then go to the Utica campus after lunch; those attending the afternoon sessions can go to the Rome campus at lunch, and then commute home after the completion of the day's events.

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

S. Reynolds described a dual admissions agreement with SUNY Poly, which will allow those students who are denied acceptance at SUNY Poly to come directly to MVCC, with the ultimate goal of being accepted at SUNY Poly after their 2 years at MVCC. The College is investigating more such agreements.

S. Reynolds then reported on the Title IX Survey, which was mandated by SUNY and intended to evaluate MVCC's environment and policies and procedures. The survey was distributed by a third party, and unfortunately there were some problems. For example, some members of the College were unable to open and complete the survey. The raw data so far, based on surveys completed by around 70 students and 100 faculty & staff, indicates that there is nothing overt that requires action, although there will need to be more communication about Title IX (what it is, how to report, and where to find more information).

Additionally, the ATD Institutional Capacities Assessment Tool was administered, with about 40 members of the College community discussing the results at the International Café. The CIA is reviewing the results of that discussion.

S. Reynolds commented that the new Interfaith Spiritual Room is being regularly used, and there is now another such space on the Rome campus. There is also a lactation room available for moms on the Rome campus, with plans to create a similar space on the Utica campus.

The Strategic Planning Committee and its subgroups have provided their plan for the 2017-18 year. The plan has been reviewed by the Cabinet, and the final draft is due to the Board of Trustees at their May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Lastly, there will be an abundance of construction on the residential halls this summer, including updating lounges with new funky furniture, paint, and lighting. There will be \$1.25 million of maintenance work completed this summer, including HVAC, plumbing, and electrical. Construction will cease briefly to accommodate the Boilermaker in July.

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

J. Roberts reported that the joint statement from the Plenary has been published after being reviewed by the SUNY Student Assembly and the University Faculty Senate. It will soon be forwarded to the new chancellor as a means of communicating the process of shared governance under Zimpher, with the expectation of continued shared governance with the new chancellor.

#### **FACULTY CAUCUS REPORT**

C. Miller reported that there was an update about the FCCC plenary at the last meeting of the Caucus, and also E. Cormican was present to discuss potential revisions to the promotions process. It was emphasized that faculty want to be engaged in the revision process as much as possible, and that the intention of those spearheading the changes is for faculty to be involved. The Excelsior program was also discussed briefly, as

well as a concern over ensuring adjunct faculty are meeting course outcomes and using materials that are in-line with what full-time faculty are doing.

The Caucus will have their election for Chair of the 2017-18 year after the May 15<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **IIC CHARTER**

A motion to approve the revised IIC Charter was made (D. Kelly; G. Warchol). Major changes include adding the Coordinator of International Student Services and the International Admissions Counselor, and adding study abroad under the committee's purview. The motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM SENATE MEMBERS**

D. Kelly commented that he has enjoyed his time serving as a member of the Senate, and wished to express a reminder that senate committees have specific responsibilities, and so when proposals are made involving those committees, the Senate should be involved. This is particularly true of the revisions to the promotions process. D. Kelly also emphasized his concern that since many Senate charters include a statement of "does not make decisions," those who do make the decisions should be clearly defined, as well as the process by which decisions are made and the processes to be followed if those decision-making processes are not be followed.

Other Senators expressed support for D. Kelly's statements, as well as a concern for more clearly defined areas of purview, particularly regarding the role that ATD plays at the College as a council, as well as where faculty purview comes into play in relation to the work that councils do. Clear definitions of the roles of councils and College Senate committees, and how they work in conjunction with ATD is desired.

A. Christensen, a long-time PE faculty member, inquired as to why there is not time allotted to critiquing final exams. That is to say, why is there no time after final exams have been administered for faculty to meet with students to go over their final exams? It was suggested that this topic be forwarded to Faculty Caucus for further discussion. This was followed by a conversation about whether students should be able to control what appears on their official transcripts. The representatives from Student Congress appeared interested in the idea, but there were concerns from other Senators regarding exterior requirements, such as being used as a record for financial aid. R. Spetka stated that an official transcript is, by definition, a record of everything a student has done at the College.

Lastly, there was a concern that the final exam schedule was not available until late into the semester, and would it be possible for a final exam schedule to be published at the start of each semester.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Santos moved and M. Henningsen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The meeting was so adjourned by common consensus.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Monday, May 15, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, August 28 2017, at 3 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski