

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

**COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES**  
*Tuesday, December 5, 2017, IT 225*

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

**Present:** C. Albrecht, D. Ayers-Darling, J. Baumann, L. Charbonneau, S. Dar, S. Frisbee, S. Fryman, A. Haines, M. Henningsen, R. Huyck, P. Katchmar, M. Kelly, D. McDermott, S. McGovern, M. McHarris, C. Miller, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, J. Rahn, J. Roberts, R. Santos, B. Scantlebury, R. VanWagoner, and J. Wilcox

**Student Senators:** T. Moore, T. Rackmyer

**Absent/Excused:** K. Carhart, D. Gibbons, D. Hyldelund, B. Jubenville, S. Kenyon, P. Lotto, T. Palumbo, J. Rothrock, G. Searles, N. Snyder, R. Spetka, T. Thomas, and T. Weimer

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 p.m.

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

T. Moore moved to approve the minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting (B. Scantlebury second). The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

A. Haines reported on a recent conference he attended for Guided Pathways. Ensuring we have a cohesive organizational approach to curriculum, advising, and other student support services will be key components of Guided Pathways. In Spring 2018, the College will begin to review these areas and determine the next steps.

**STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT**

T. Moore reported that all receipts for students clubs are due by December 14<sup>th</sup>. Any trip scheduled December 15<sup>th</sup> or later will be cancelled. There was some discussion concerning when and how faculty advisors are notified of problems with student clubs.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President VanWagoner shared that Jack Plumley, Mark Radlowski, Colleen Peterson Wallace, and Don Willner were inducted into the MVCC Hall of Fame. Attendance at Campus Conversations is appreciated, and one more Conversation is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Budget materials will be delivered to budget managers in the next few weeks. The SUNY Board approved the request to pursue an allocation model of funding rather than an enrollment-based model. Funds through a SUNY block grant for high-cost technical programs in workforce development are also being discussed. Shifts in enrollment will still affect the budget, and the College will need to find a way to become more flexible to accommodate returning adult students, as well as to increase retention of current students.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

M. Eannace announced a number of retirements from the Academic Unit and reported that 11 searches have been conducted for positions in the unit. She explained that we are engaged in two Guided Pathways programs: Guided Pathways 2.0 to develop Guided Pathways at MVCC, and a shared PIF grant with Monroe Community College to assist other SUNY schools with Guided Pathways. Fermentation Science has also been funded by a PIF grant, as well as JumpStart, a summer program to help high school students prepare for college math and English.

The PGP external evaluators completed their visit a few weeks ago. Overall, the evaluation was stellar, with the evaluators commenting they were especially impressed with our Learning Commons. They did suggest some recommendations, including a relaunch of Starfish, a wider spread of faculty using the toolkits, and adjusting how completion coaches are assigned their caseloads.

Housing and food insecurity was discussed at the November meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges. Out of every five students in college, one will experience housing or food insecurity during their time in school, with the ratio larger for community college students. 73% of our students are Pell Eligible, and our C3 program helps connect students to community and college services.

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

J. Roberts reported on two resolutions being discussed at FCCC.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR FUNDING**

The governance board put together a resolution in favor of the funding model discussed in the President's Report.

#### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MILITARY ABSENCES**

SUNY has no policy regarding the treatment of absences due to the obligations of students who serve in the military, such as mandatory trainings or being called to serve. This can impact financial aid, among other things, and result in these students unable to complete their degree. While many institutions have policies in place to help students in these situations, the FCCC is requesting SUNY develop a policy as well.

After some discussion regarding what MVCC currently does for these students and what the definition of "excused absence" would be in a SUNY policy, it was decided to forward the conversation to Faculty Caucus for further discussion before the Senate would consider support of this resolution.

#### **FACULTY CAUCUS REPORT**

C. Miller reported on both the November and October meetings of the Faculty Caucus.

In November, Jocelyn Ireland presented an overview of the PGP toolkits, and led an engaging discussion of how these toolkits may be accessed by a broader range of faculty and used in other courses, as well as the challenges with hosting the toolkits on Blackboard, and where the toolkits might be hosted in the future. There was also a conversation about the seven "Syllabus Statements," and whether the syllabus is the appropriate place to house this information, with some alternate locations discussed. T. Squires and N. Tutino will attend the December Caucus meeting to address Bookstore concerns.

Guided Pathways were discussed in the October meeting, with M. Eannace and R. VanWagoner in attendance to field questions and concerns. A. Fried presented on a form CWCC is developing in preparation for Guided Pathways, and C. DeJohn solicited new ideas for CCED programs to benefit the community. A. Christenson proposed the College create an opportunity for a post-final critique session for students to receive feedback on their work. This conversation led to two resolutions: (1) Request the

Calendar Committee to incorporate a Snow Day back into the schedule, which could also be used as a critique day, and (2) Request the Calendar Committee to consider creating a standard final exam schedule based on class times.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **MICRO-CREDENTIALS**

The recommendations from APSC regarding micro-credentials were discussed. Although other names were explored, “micro-credential” was chosen to align with SUNY terminology. Some departments, such as PSAT, are already engaging in developing micro-credentials, and the flexibility of micro-credentials appeals to those looking to update or enhance their workforce skills. While some students already attend the College for this purpose, micro-credentials will give a name to what they’re striving to complete, and some limited research suggests students enrolled in a micro-credential may be more likely to later enroll in a related degree program and complete a degree. At the moment, micro-credentials will appear on the co-curricular transcript, and students wishing to complete a micro-credential will need to be approved.

Industries may also wish to collaborate with the College to develop micro-credentials. However, some senators are concerned about industries potentially forcing curriculum, as well as the potentially diminished value of a micro-credential if an industry leaves the area. Therefore, care should be taken that interested businesses and industries develop micro-credentials through conversations with faculty, and that the department review process is rigorous.

C. Miller made a motion to accept the APSC recommendations and to bring them to the Board of Trustees for review (T. Moore second). The motion carried: 12 approve, 3 oppose, 4 abstain.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COLLEGE PARTNERS COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION**

M. Henningsen gave a brief explanation of the partnership between MVCC and Bellevue University in Nebraska, in which students can complete a Bellevue degree on the MVCC campus. When a recent graduate of that program was unable to attend their graduation in Nebraska, it was suggested that Bellevue graduates be recognized at the MVCC graduation, with a representative from Bellevue attending to confer the degree. There was some discussion regarding the broader impact this might have, specifically on graduates from non-credit programs, and whether they should be recognized during the Commencement ceremonies as well. After some discussion, it was decided further research was needed for non-credit programs, and it was suggested that S. Reynolds lead that research. A motion was made to allow 4-year colleges included in our University Partners Center to participate in MVCC graduations (J. Baumann, R. Santos). The motion passed with 20 in favor, no opposed, and 1 abstention.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by common consensus at 4:09 p.m.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, January 29, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski