

MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Utica and Rome, New York

COLLEGE SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 6, 2018, IT 225

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

Present: J. Baumann, K. Carhart, L. Charbonneau, S. Dar, S. Fryman, D. Gibbons, A. Haines, M. Henningsen, R. Huyck, P. Katchmar, S. Kenyon, M. Kelly, D. McDermott, S. McGovern, M. McHarris, C. Miller, B. Molinaro, S. Myalik, A. Radlowski, J. Rahn, J. Roberts, R. Santos, B. Scantlebury, G. Searles, N. Snyder, R. Spetka, T. Thomas, and J. Wilcox

Student Senators: Kupr, T. Rackmyer, Z. Stachelski

Absent/Excused: C. Albrecht, S. Frisbee, A. Hazen, D. Hyldelund, B. Jubenville, P. Lotto, T. Palumbo, J. Rothrock, R. VanWagoner, T. Moore

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 p.m.

MIDDLE STATES TEAM VISIT

As part of their campus visit, the Middle States Team asked several questions of the Senators and those present at the meeting. Topics primarily centered on the scope of topics discussed at Senate, how the various areas of the College are represented on the Senate, how the forum facilitates communication among those areas, how decisions are made, and how the College Senate is connected to the Strategic Plan and the Board of Trustees.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the February 6th meeting were approved with 1 abstention (R. Spetka, B. Scantlebury).

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A. Haines had no new items on which to report.

STUDENT CONGRESS REPORT

T. Rackmyer reported that student clubs have been highly active, and that succession planning has begun for the leadership of the Student Congress. She also reported on the status of remaining funds for clubs, which is lower than usual. Additionally, the Hawks Life App has positively impacted attendance at Student Congress meetings. Lastly, the student club "report card" will be changed to a "checklist," since it is to be used primarily in an advisory capacity, and not as a grade or punitive measure against clubs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President VanWagoner was unable to attend and there was no President's Report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

T. Squires shared a number of updates and addressed some concerns that had been raised, including the following:

- **WI-FI AND NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE**
I.T. has been working to replace the network infrastructure, and desktops across campus are loading much more quickly as a result. The number of mobile devices on campus has a significant impact on Wi-Fi speeds, and the next phase of upgrades will include replacing the Wi-Fi access points across campus to increase Wi-Fi capacity and speed. Currently under investigation are which locations on campus have high demand for Wi-Fi, as well as at what times the demand is greatest.
- **BUDGET**
Nearly all budget requests have been submitted, and will soon be reviewed by Cabinet. The President is finalizing the dates for the Budget Open Forums, but in the meantime, T. Squires is seeking suggestions as to how the process may be made more transparent and interactive, and requests that suggestions be sent via email. T. Squires also shared the current assumptions being used to inform the budget, and how decisions are being shaped by changes to dual credit and changes to the state's funding formula.
- **DELAYS & CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**
Because some programs, such as Airframe & Powerplant Technology, have strictly regulated hours, if the College can open, it will be open. The current philosophy is that if the College can be open for half a day, that is better than not at all.

Senators expressed some concerns about recent closures, including the short notice (some students and employees were already on the road when the decision was made) and the fact that the link on the website for the class cancellation page has changed, so students had difficulty knowing whether their classes were cancelled or not.

- **UTICA COLLEGE'S RECENT SHELTER IN PLACE**
Recently Utica College received a credible report of a threat on campus, and a shelter in place was enacted. T. Squires shared how MVCC reacted to the threat and, more broadly, how local threats are generally monitored. In response to the threat at Utica College, two additional officers were on MVCC's campus within 20 minutes, both vehicle and foot patrols on campus were increased, and 911 chatter was monitored. An email was sent within 45 minutes assuring the College community that the situation was being monitored, with follow-up communication roughly every hour afterwards.
- **OTHER SAFETY ISSUES**
Recently, a drill was conducted for dorm students to shelter in place, and D. Amico is investigating how similar drills may be conducted for the student body at large. Additionally, those who have not yet signed up for NY Alert were encouraged to do so.

Being able to secure classroom doors is a significant issue. For example, the only way to lock PH 102 is for the instructor to be on the outside of the room and to lock the students inside. When the Rome campus was renovated, locks were installed so that the doors can be locked from the inside; this way nobody can enter the room, but people can still leave. While expensive to similarly replace all locks on the Utica campus, ways of doing so are being investigated. For example, lock replacement can be included as part of the asbestos abatement renovations in AB.

The question of how adjuncts and new employees are trained for active shooter and emergency situations was raised, along with concerns about liability. Senators also expressed a general concern that there seems to be a lack of confidence about how to act in emergency situations, outside of fire drills. Additionally, Public Safety officers were not armed when the Active Shooter Training sessions were last held, and it may be beneficial to refresh the training. Some ways of potentially conducting drills for various emergency situations were also discussed.

FACULTY CAUCUS REPORT

Due to time, the Faculty Caucus Report was tabled until the next Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by common consensus at 4:23pm.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the College Senate will be **Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. in IT 225.**

The next meeting of the Senate Advisory Committee will be Monday, March 26, 2018, at 3:00 p.m. in PH 304.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski