

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

2:30pm WH 225

Attendance

Present: E. Bush, S. Crocker, N. Evanoff, M. Faitell, R. Golden, D. Head, R. Huyck, M. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, S. McCall, M. McHarris, M. Miknavich, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Nolan, A. Radlowski, A. Roy Small, S. Selden, R. Spetka, C. VanNamee, R. VanWagoner, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Student Senators: A. Jackson

Absent/Excused: C. Albrecht, S. Cummings, S. Frisbee, A. Hazen, B. Horender, J. Ireland, R. Khames, S. McGovern, M. Parry, A. Sandstrom, F. Vellone, L. Warring, J. Wilcox, J. Woodrow

Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the April 4, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were approved (S. Crocker, R. Wittenberg) (16,0,0)

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller shared her appreciation for senators' engagement and support of shared governance throughout the year and thanked the outgoing senators for their service. Special thanks were given to Vice President of Student Affairs, S. Reynolds, who is retiring this year.

There will be a special meeting of the Senate on Wednesday, May 17th via Zoom to welcome new Senators, and there will be a special advisory meeting with Cabinet on May 19th, during which the annual goals will be reviewed and goals for next year will be made.

Old Business

Proposed Senate EIT Committee

C. Miller

The Senate agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Senate EIT Committee for a term of 2 years. The committee will give updates in the November and April Senate meetings of its term. For additional information, please see [the charter](#).

New Business

Disciplinary Appeals Committee Charter Changes

S. Reynolds, R. Wittenberg

In an effort to combine similar processes and ensure consistency, it is proposed to expand the Disciplinary Appeals Committee's charge to include the disciplinary appeal process, Title IX appeal

process, and ADA compliance process. The committee will be renamed to the Non–Academic Appeals Committee to reflect the new broader charge.

There was some discussion regarding whether or not the faculty members of the committee should come from different schools. It was suggested that a note be included that ideally the faculty members would come from different schools, but it would not be required so that the committee would be more likely to be staffed.

A motion to approve the charter revisions was approved. (A. Radlowski, M. Kelly) (21, 0, 0)

General Education Assessment Plan Revisions

M. Barlett

M. Barlett gave a status report on revisions to the General Education Assessment Plan. Currently, the committee is working to tighten up the language and generalize the assessment process to make the assessment plan more consistent across the different areas, as well as more concise. In the current plan, general education areas are assessed every four years. The goal is to assess general education more frequently, with the ultimate goal to have a centralized location where general education data will be collected and stored to allow for ongoing assessment and review.

The General Education Committee began its review of the Assessment Plan this semester, and will continue revising the plan next semester, with a goal to pilot the new plan in Spring 2024. To aid in these efforts, M. Barlett requests those who teach General Education courses to review the plan and contact their representative on the General Education Committee with any feedback.

Faculty Council of Community Colleges Resolutions

A. Miller

A. Miller summarized the two resolutions that came from the FCCC Plenary and asked the Senate to endorse them.

A motion to endorse the resolution *“Inclusive Access” Bookstore Programs* passed. (A. Miller, S. McCall) (20, 0, 2).

A motion to endorse the resolution *Supporting Students and Faculty Faced with Rising Ideological and Anti-Intellectual Attacks on Academic Freedom* also passed. (A. Miller, S. Crocker) (22, 0, 0)

Vice Presidents’ Report

L. Kahler, S. Reynolds, T. Squires

When the signage was updated on the Utica campus, the signs on the third floor of Payne Hall that listed names and numbers of offices in the various corridors were removed. A. Radlowski asked if there was a plan to replace these signs, and M. McHarris commented that the old signs had not been ADA compliant. T. Squires indicated that there was not a current plan to replace the signs, but that he can look into it. S. McCall expressed a concern that some faculty offices are missing name plates. Those who are missing name plates for their office should email M. McHarris.

For additional information, please see the attached Vice Presidents’ Report.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller reported that there has been some discussion about the difference between liberal arts and general education among the SUNY colleges. She and M. Barlett will attend the June and August meetings, and the next Plenary is in October.

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar reported that there was a discussion about the First Day Complete at the April Caucus meeting, with some questions remaining unanswered. She will contact the Bookstore manager for more details.

Caucus elections will happen during the May 9th meeting and you must be present to vote. Open positions include the chair, secretary, and two additional members for the Caucus Advisory. Those interested in nominating themselves or others should contact S. Dar prior to the meeting.

Open Forum

C. Miller reminded senators that we'll elect members of the Advisory Committee during the Special Senate meeting on the 17th.

There was a reminder that regalia distribution is different this year, so make sure to pick up your regalia from the Bookstore prior to Commencement. A suggestion was made that perhaps faculty should sit near their students in the future at Commencement.

Congratulations and special thanks were given to senators M. Miknavich and R. Spetka, who are retiring from the College.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

The Senate moved to enter an Executive Session for the President's Report (R. Huyck, A. Roy Small) (19, 0, 0). Upon conclusion of the President's Report, the Executive Session ended.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04pm. (S. Crocker, A. Jackson).

Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Special May Senate Meeting will be:

Wednesday, May 17th at 1:00 PM via Zoom

The next Regular Senate Meeting will be:

Tuesday, September 5th at 2:30 PM in WH 225

The next Senate Advisory Routing Sheet for applicable Agenda item proposals is **due: Tuesday, August 22nd**.

The next Senate Advisory Meeting will be **Tuesday August 29th at 2:30 PM via Teams**

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report to College Senate

April 4, 2023

Mohawk Valley Community College

Budget Update

I don't have much more to share on the budget at this point but anticipate the likelihood of being able to share more detail by the time of the College Senate meeting on May 2.

VP for Student Affairs Search Update

Having experience as both a Chief Academic Officer and a Chief Student Affairs Officer at other community colleges, I greatly appreciate the value of having both perspectives on a senior leadership team represented by individual Vice Presidents. I understand the need in smaller institutions to combine the two into a single Vice President, but MVCC's size and complexity still warrant the two positions. We are moving through the process of a national search for the Vice President for Student Affairs that will become vacant when Stephanie Reynolds retires June 30. The timeline has grown tight, but we are optimistic that we'll hit the mark. We advertised nationally with a new [microsite for recruitment](#) that HR and Marketing developed together – if you scroll down, there are different tabs for employee experience, the external community, benefits, and a specific tab for the VP for student affairs. We had 43 applicants. The committee reviewed all the applications and conducted 17 initial interviews via 15-minute Zoom meetings. They moved five candidates on to the second round for 30-minute Zoom meetings and have identified three finalists to bring to campus for full-day interviews. Those dates will likely be in early May where the candidates will meet with several different groups on campus, hold an open forum, and have a tour with a member of the Student Affairs Team. We'll collect feedback from the open forums and invite all the individuals who attended the smaller meetings into a 360-feedback session to provide me with strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. I'll then make a decision and hopefully recommend a candidate to the Board on the May Board agenda for a July 1 start date.

KPI: "MVCC provides accessible educational opportunities."

The KPI to measure the extent to which MVCC is providing high-quality educational opportunities is measured through student survey data. Unfortunately, to receive comparative benchmark data with other community colleges, we participate in SUNY surveys that are not administered every year and recently went through a major change. The key differences include:

- The former Student Opinion Survey (SOS) was administered every 3 years, the new Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS) will be administered every 2 years.

- SOS was administered by ACT Testing with sponsorship from SUNY and specialized for community colleges, while the new SSS goes to ALL SUNY colleges (both 2 year and 4 year) and is administered directly by SUNY.
- SOS was (up until very recently) delivered on paper, in person, to a *random sample of courses*. The new SSS survey is emailed directly to students taking for-credit courses and is done online.
- Both surveys exclude students under 18, Dual Enrollment students, and students in prison courses.
- Even though many of the questions are the same, or similar, it would be inappropriate to compile the results in the same table, given the differences in methodology.
- Most questions are on a 1-5 Likert-rating scale.

MVCC provides high-quality educational opportunities.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2019*</u>	<u>2021**</u>
2a-% student satisfaction with overall quality of instruction at MVCC (Every 3 years -SOS-Section IIIA #1)	4.02	4.04	4.07	
SSSq-18-12- Rate the overall quality of instruction (1 to 5 rating scale)				3.9
2b-% student satisfaction with overall MVCC experience (Every 3 years -SOS-Section I #7)	3.86	3.92	4.01	
SSS q1How Satisfied are you with this college in general? (1-5 rating Scale)				3.9
2c-% students stating that if they could start over, they would again choose MVCC (Every 3 years -SOS-Section I #1, SSS Q 3)	3.91	3.95	4.14	
SSS-Q9- If you could start over, would you choose to attend this college again? (1-5 rating scale)				4.1
2e. NEW: % of students who feel a sense of belonging at MVCC				
SSS q24-1 - Your sense of belonging at this college (1-5 rating scale)				3.8

**In 2019, the survey methodology changed from paper to online.*

***In 2021, the survey was re-written by SUNY and changed to the Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS). Questions may have changed slightly. The new survey will be administered every 2 years to all 64 SUNY colleges. Current SSS data is not directly comparable to historical Student Opinion Survey (SOS) data given changes in implementation methods and other issues.*

Vice Presidents' Senate Report

April 4, 2023

Mohawk Valley Community College

Proposed changes to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee

New York State Education Law requires the provision of due process for students: 1) alleged to have violated the Student Code of Conduct; or 2) found responsible for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Title IX and VAWA (Violence Against Women) regulations (federal and state) require the provision of due process for both Reporting and Responding students. The Americans with Disabilities Act (federal) requires the provision of due process for students alleging a grievance based on discrimination.

One aspect of due process procedures regardless of title is the ability to appeal a decision that has been made. This is a two-step process: 1) a request to have an appeal heard and 2) if approved, the completion of a hearing.

Heretofore, the Senate Disciplinary Appeals Committee (DAC) has heard requests for appeals for student discipline and Title IX/VAWA outcomes. The DAC has also been the body to hear and determine outcomes when an appeal hearing has been approved for student conduct. They have not been the body to hear Title IX/VAWA appeal hearings due in part to training. In 2020, Title IX/VAWA regulations were changed and anyone who touched a case was required to undergo mandatory annual, eight-hour certification training. Since then, all members of the DAC have completed this Title IX training before serving on the committee.

As student discipline, Title IX/VAWA and ADA have had similar processes but differences in decision-making, Student Affairs has made the recommendation to Senate that the DAC be renamed the Non-Academic Appeals Committee. This affords the committee the opportunity to also hear ADA grievance appeals that are not discipline in nature. The goal is to provide for consistency in both process and decision-making across policies.

This recommendation with a new Charter has been provided to all key stakeholders for review and input.

Administrative Services Update:

- IT would like to get the word out that they have a OneScreen interactive panel, which is available to sign out or come learn how to use. It can be used for meetings and classrooms. There will be more available for use in the coming year.
- They would also like to remind everyone that they should be updating their computers on at least a biweekly basis. Updates push out for Windows on Tuesdays making any day after that the best day to check for pending updates. You can submit a ticket through the Helpdesk card on MyMV if you would like assistance.
- IT will be on Summer hours once the spring semester has ended, with availability from 8:30pm – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday.

We think the air conditioning challenges we've had on the Utica campus are under control, at least for now. The chiller in Wilcox Hall is up and running after sending the compressor to Texas for a rebuild; the chiller in the S&T Building has been replaced and is now operational; while the chiller for Payne Hall is scheduled for replacement this summer the old one is holding up. For now.

The signage will be updated soon in Wilcox Hall and the Jorgensen Building to conform with the overall signage plan that was used for the Rome campus and other Utica campus buildings.

The College's financial statement audit has been completed and the financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2022 were accepted by the Board of Trustees at the April Board meeting. The statements received an unmodified, or "clean" opinion from the external audit firm, D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP.

BrightSpace Update:

Ed Tech continues to present BrightSpace workshops, one per day, through May 12th.

They will also be offering "office hour" sessions May 16-19th in PH 300 where faculty can stop by to ask questions.

Registration for our BrightSpace workshops can be found on the "Brightspace Tile" in MyMV.

All indications are that we are on target for our summer courses to run exclusively in Brightspace.

As a reminder, our Blackboard instance will be available through December 31, 2023. Faculty should export all their Blackboard courses (by following the directions that were sent by Norma on March 23rd) prior to this date to ensure that they do not lose any content.

School of Art Update:

Nick Latham, Illustration, won an Honorable Mention in SUNY exhibition series.

Aidan Ferguson, Video Production, won a SUNY Chancellor's award.

Preferred Transfer Partner Framework:

After much feedback, we have a simplified "Institutional Level Framework" for the Preferred Transfer Partner Initiative. This simplified version eliminates the percentage calculations on degree and instead focuses on rational transfer paths and services offered to students. This framework also allows for each school/discipline to design a preferred transfer partner presence on their school website which addresses those cases where there is a strong partnership with a 4-year partner in a specific program or discipline. This institutional level framework will allow us to highlight those colleges who work well with transfer students and who offer services, tuition breaks, or additional credits in transfer to their institution.