

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

2:30pm via Zoom

Attendance

Present: E. Bush, S. Crocker, S. Cummings, M. Faitell, S. Frisbee, D. Head, B. Horender, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, S. Lai, S. McCall, S. McGovern, M. McHarris, M. Miknavich, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Nolan, M. Parry, A. Radlowski, A. Roy Small, S. Selden, R. Spetka, L. Warring, R. Wittenberg, C. VanNamee, R. VanWagoner, L. Williams, J. Woodrow

Student Senators: L. Holmes, A. Jackson

Absent/Excused: C. Albrecht, R. Golden, A. Hazen, J. Wilcox, F. Vellone

Call to Order

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

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the October 4, 2022 Meeting

The minutes were approved with some changes. (R. Wittenberg, S. Cummings) (26,0,1)

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller remarked that the presentation of the Heart of the Hawk and Pride of the Hawk awards will be moved to earlier in the meeting so that recipients can attend to receive their awards. Additionally, the new business of T. Marshall's report will be tabled for the next meeting so the report can be given in person.

C. Miller then shared an overview of activities conducted by Senate Advisory, including reviewing the upcoming Senate agenda, considering potential active engagement activities for future meetings, discussing new items of business, reviewing draft minutes, and discussing Senate goals.

K. Herting has accepted a position outside of MVCC, and so the Senate needs a new Secretary. A. Radlowski volunteered for the position for the remainder of the 2022-23 Academic Year. On behalf of the Senate, C. Miller wished K. Herting all the best in her new endeavors.

C. Miller and A. Radlowski shared an overview of a Senate Teams page that is being created, with a release date of Spring 2023. Channels have been created to house documents for general Senate information (including the by-laws and Senate website); meeting documents (such as resolutions and reports shared at meetings); meeting minutes (for present and past Senate meetings); and Senate committee folders (to facilitate communication between Senate committees and the Senate). Suggestions on additions or changes that should be made to the Senate Teams site are welcome and can be passed along to either cmiller@mvcc.edu or aradlowski@mvcc.edu.

Heart of the Hawk and Pride of the Hawk Awards

R. VanWagoner

The Fall 2022 Heart of the Hawk Award was presented to Katey Cordary, who regularly goes the extra mile for her students and colleagues, and was described as being the epitome of a student-centered instructor.

The Fall 2022 Pride of the Hawk Award was presented to Rachel Libby for her extraordinary scheduling prowess and her efforts to accommodate the needs of faculty, staff, and students throughout Covid by ensuring courses were listed and described properly, as well as keeping the schedule organized and up to date as changes to course formats were frequently made.

Old Business

Preferred Transfer Partner – Draft Criteria

L. Kahler

L. Kahler shared that he has received feedback on the document from various places, with one significant piece of feedback being to examine the rankings of transfer partnerships based on MVCC schools and/or programs. For example, students in one program may have an outstanding transfer experience with an institution while students in other programs may see fewer of their credits transferring at that same institution. L. Kahler's new goals are to synthesize the feedback he has received into a new draft to bring to Senate next month for a vote, as well as to cultivate ideas around how to make the document more useful on a per program basis.

E. Bush brought forward questions she had received from her School, summarized below:

Question: Why do pathways on the gold level include paths to graduate work? If a pathway includes only Bachelor's as success, will that punish good partnerships? Why 80 credits, when MVCC programs are 61-64 credits?

Answer: No, the partnerships will not be punished. If we go by degree type, the goal is to find the best option. We have agreements with some colleges who will accept 80 credits, and the idea behind the gold level is for colleges who go above and beyond for our students.

Question: Similarly on the silver level, it states 64+ credits and 75% of all degree programs. Why 75%, and should it be 61-64 credits?

Answer: Ideally every credit would transfer, as a minimum. Hence the 64+ for a silver-level partnership. The 75% was used to start this conversation and is used to reflect to the different levels of credits being accepted in different programs by the same institution referenced above.

Question: Who owns and maintains this list? How will schools be vetted?

Answer: Academic Affairs. It will likely be updated by those who currently handle transfer and articulation agreements, but collectively all of Academic Affairs will be responsible. In particular, L. Kahler will rely on input from Schools and SSAs throughout the process as students go on to transfer.

Question: How will this document be marketed to transfer partners?

Answer: It's a little early to know how marketing will be handled, but L. Kahler will work with A. Smajic to develop external – as well as internal – marketing.

BOT Policy on Student Success – Draft

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner shared that the MVCC Board of Trustees attended workshops about how to support the Guided Pathways work at the College, and the most common response was to codify the work into policy. The Board looked at samples shared at other workshops and crafted the policy presented to Senate. The goal is to preserve best practices without being so specific as to, in the future, box us in. S. Frisbee motioned to endorse the policy (A. Miller second) and the motion passed (32, 0, 0).

Remote Work Policy– Draft

R. VanWagoner, C. Marceau

C. Marceau reviewed changes that were made to the policy, which primarily consisted of removing references to the pilot program. A question was raised regarding why there isn't a remote option available to faculty in the policy, with the response being that a policy for faculty to request remote work already exists through the contractual process. This policy is for those who are outside that contract. A motion to endorse the policy as amended was made and approved (S. Frisbee, E. Bush) (29, 0, 3).

Proposed General Education Changes

M. Barlett

M. Barlett thanked Senators for their input at the last meeting, which influenced several changes in the document. The updated document can be found at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zhrvMVJv5WZ6PM-blbEnvvwootGxZDjKVm9sEW_znO4/edit

After briefly summarizing the changes made, M. Barlett fielded some questions, including:

Question: Will SUNY assess the courses that MVCC identifies as satisfying certain SUNY knowledge areas and competencies, or will the assessment be internal?

Answer: Although courses will be included in a SUNY database, campuses are expected to have good, on-campus procedures in place – involving faculty and the governance process – to ensure that these courses meet the SLOs, with an assessment plan in place. The SUNY memoranda are clear that SUNY will maintain a database but will not approve general education courses.

Question: Will this impact students already enrolled in programs?

Answer: No – students graduate under the program they started in. However, students can opt into the new program if they want to.

M. Miknavich cautioned that it will be important to synchronize sections marked as general education, or else there will be fatal errors when reporting to SUNY.

L. Kahler thanked M. Barlett, A. Miller, and the General Education committee for their work.

The plan will be to bring the policy to Senate for a vote in December, so everyone is encouraged to review the document and submit feedback before then.

New Business

Updates from the Chief Diversity Office T. Marshall

Tabled for next month.

Student Congress Report

L. Holmes

C. Miller welcomed A. Jackson to the Senate.

L. Holmes reported on the Program Board's recent attendance at the APCA (Associate for the Promotion of Campus Activities) Conference (October 20th–23rd). In addition to seeing several great performances (including some singers, comedians, a mentalist, hypnotist, and a make-and-take workshop that will be brought to campus next semester), MVCC students won three awards at the conference:

- Regional Advisor of the Year (to De'anna Hopkinson)
- Best Print Material (for the Chocolate Festival Poster)
- Instagram Competition

L. Holmes also commented that Student Congress has been engaged in vibrant conversation regarding the First Day Complete initiative, and students appreciate being part of the conversation to determine whether or not this will be a good fit for MVCC students. Additionally, the Executive Board will be holding their weekly 10 office hours in different locations across campus to reach more students, including the AB lobby, the Learning Commons, and the ACC Snack Bar, in addition to the office in ACC 224.

The October 17th Student Congress Unclassified event was also a good opportunity for students to engage with Student Congress, and the next two events will be held on November 14th and December 5th. Attendance at Student Congress meetings has also improved from last semester, with about 30 students now participating.

A question was raised regarding GPA requirements for Student Congress members. There is no GPA requirement for being a club president, unless it is written in the club charter. However, although all students can attend and participate in Student Congress meetings, they must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 to vote, and some students have expressed concern about being required to pay activity fees without being able to vote on how those fees are used. The reason provided for the minimum GPA was that academics should take priority over extracurricular activities, but it was agreed that the matter will be reviewed.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner provided a written report prior to the Senate meeting (see attached), about which there were no questions. He also commented that there have been some concerns about the prices on the apparel sale referenced in the last College-wide update, but mentioned that the sale is an effort to supplement what is available in the bookstore to expand brand offerings.

Vice Presidents' Report

S. Reynolds, L. Kahler, T. Squires

The discussion regarding the Vice Presidents' Report (attached) included the following:

- Food options on campus have changed over time due to changes in vendors, enrollment, and budget. For example, in order for the snack bar to have extended hours and for food service to re-open in AB, 350 meals plans are required. We are hopeful this threshold will be met next fall. Additional options, including self-service and/or hot food/beverage vending machines are being explored for AB and Rome.
- The I.T. tips are helpful, but are they being archived anywhere? It was suggested to keep them on the website or Teams.
- There is no hard timeline for the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence in AB 249 at the moment, but the space should be able to be used straight through the redesign process.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller shared several general updates and take-aways from the October Plenary, including:

- R. VanWagoner is now the liaison between FCCC and NYCAAP.
- The search for a SUNY Chancellor is underway, but there is no specific timeline.
- There is significant stress regarding general education changes and the D2L Brightspace conversion.

The following three resolutions were discussed and endorsed:

- **Mental Health & Wellness**
Motion to endorse the resolution passed (A. Miller, M. Kelly) (27, 0, 0)
- **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Support**
Motion to endorse the resolution passed (A. Miller, S. Frisbee) (28, 0, 0)
- **Upper Division Definition**
Motion to endorse the resolution passed (A. Miller, M. Kuczynski) (27, 0, 1)

A. Miller is also taking comments regarding PLA (Prior Learning Assessment) until this Friday. A recent SUNY memo has new additions regarding assigning grades to prior learning, which most institutions do not do.

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar reported on the Faculty Caucus meeting held on October 18th in Teams. Topics discussed included First Day Complete, SUNY General Education Guidelines and the updated document from General Education Committee, and UDL (Universal Design for Learning). Additionally, future conversations about diversity will focus on useful tips, tricks, and infographics to make the classroom more inclusive, and faculty discussed whether a mid-semester break is possible in the future around Columbus Day to help curb burnout of students and faculty alike.

At the moment, it is unknown whether next semester's meetings will be on campus, online, or a combination of both.

Open Forum

A concern regarding students using up all their data due to the two-factor authentication requirement was addressed. There is a Microsoft authenticator app that students can use, as well as tokens available for students to use. Tokens can be obtained from the I.T. helpdesk (currently located in PH 382 in Utica and 128G and 128A in Rome).

There was also a question regarding the start-date for D2L. Although we will be engaging in the initial phases of D2L as of January 2023, faculty will not see a change to course sites until Summer 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm. (M. Parry, E. Bush)

Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Next Regular Senate Meeting will be:

Tuesday, December 6th 2:30 PM in person at WH225

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report to College Senate

November 1, 2022

Mohawk Valley Community College

Budget Update

As I have shared, the President's Cabinet and I have been working on the budget for fiscal year 2023-24 since last spring. I believe we've made solid progress to create a sense of clarity for what our fiscal situation is likely to be when the one-time Federal stimulus dollars are exhausted by next summer. You may recall that I shared our original budget assumptions of no increase in state aid and no tuition increase coupled with a 2% increase from the County and a 7% enrollment decline this year with those same parameters for FY24 created a structural deficit nearly four times what our challenge has been for the past 8 years or so.

Fortunately, those projections got better as our Board of Trustees raised tuition 6% (we went from the lowest tuition in the state to 6th lowest) and the County provided a 5% increase to go with the 2% decline from the state, and enrollment is looking to be down close to -1 or -2%. Additionally, we have identified a few enrollment and revenue opportunities that are currently in development but won't likely be formal or final until the spring. We have also identified several challenging and painful reductions that we will continue to evaluate as we finalize our operating fund balance reserve when the financial audit is complete in a few months. Until enrollment and the fund balance are finalized, we're kind of in a holding pattern for the next month or two, before we begin to really do the deep and necessary work of assembling the final budget for next year.

Budget Advocacy

In my opinion, we are more advanced on the advocacy timeline than we have been in the past 16 years. The NY Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) and the Trustees group (NYCCT) has finalized our request – the maintenance of effort funding floor (i.e., give us what you gave us last year); plus 4%; and maintain the \$40M in workforce funding as part of our annual base state aid. We are also working to stay aligned with the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the Community College Caucus of the Student Assembly to raise our collective voice more than ever this year with state legislators.

What Have I Been Thinking About Lately?

I thought I'd add this section to create some space that might open strategic conversation with Senators in some way. Over the past few weeks, I have attended several meetings and had multiple conversations that are increasingly amplifying the pace, scale, and complexity of changes happening in our community – and the extent to which the College will need to adapt to it all. The \$100B Micron project in Clay, NY is significant – bringing 9,000 direct and 40,000 indirect new jobs to the region over the next 5-10 years is hard to comprehend. Similarly, as hard as we've been peddling to help Wolfspeed, MarcyNano is likely to have two more Wolfspeed-size projects happen, Danfoss is likely hiring up to another 100 employees, and Indium keeps adding jobs on a monthly basis to fuel their growth and add to the regional semiconductor ecosystem. The Wynn Hospital in downtown Utica will change healthcare in the area; a new employer in the area will hire more than 100 people to open a quality testing facility for cannabis; the school districts are facing major teacher shortages; the Nexus Center will open soon with bookings through the spring; the Utica Harbor development continues to

advance – I could go on and on with more examples of growth and development that all point to truly transformative changes in our community.

After so many years of no growth or linear incremental change, our area has to begin shaking off ways of thinking from the past and find ways to think differently, imagine solutions at larger scale, and embrace change at an entirely different level from what we've come to know. I don't know the specifics, but the College has always risen to meet the changing needs of our community and the acceleration that is beginning to hit means the College is going to have to be at the forefront of those changes in various ways.

Vice Presidents' Senate Report

November 1, 2022

Mohawk Valley Community College

- CCED is soft launching its Fast Track to Careers program in spring 2022 which will reimagine a regional workforce training and placement strategy that makes vital connections between trainees and high-demand jobs in response to the massive upheaval in the regional labor force. At its core, the Fast Track to careers program relies on strategies to engage non-traditional students in short-term credit and non-credit training programs for quick retooling while ensuring a clear pathway for future training and upskilling.
- MVCC's Educational Outreach Center (EOC) on 3rd and Elizabeth, which was the home to multiple state and federally funded programs that assisted the diverse population of the Mohawk Valley, and was originally designed to provide information and counseling to individuals who would like to attend college or other postsecondary educational institution, will be closing at the end of the month. The Center's goal was to work with individuals and their families to overcome barriers and successfully reach their educational goals. This has been achieved and the remaining grant is now in its final year and will provide transition services to the students that it continues to serve in the Youth Build grant.
- Educational outreach will now be accomplished with a distributed model both in Utica and Rome with some of those efforts falling under Jen DeWeerth in her new role as Dean of the Rome Campus and Community Outreach. The staff associated with the EOC will continue to work with students and will be relocated to both campuses to ensure the continuation of services through the Youth Build grant's scheduled end.
- The Department of Information Technology continuously works to protect the College network from attacks in a variety of ways. Executive Director MJ Parry regularly sends emails with updates on phishing attempts making the rounds, details on new security initiatives and best practices for end users. I strongly urge you to take a minute and read MJ's Technology Tips and other emails as they come out to protect yourself and the network overall.
- It's not too late to buy a staff/faculty meal plan for the dining hall! For \$140 you can purchase 20 meals and use them for breakfast, lunch or dinner in the dining hall. It is all you can eat and there are many options available. There is no better deal in town than \$7 for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Reynolds
Tom Squires
Lew Kahler