

MVCC College Senate Meeting
Tuesday, November 7, 2023
2:30pm Zoom

Attendance

Present: E. Brindisi, E. Bush, K. Cordary, S. Crocker, S. Cummings, S. Dar, H. Doty, N. Evanoff, M. Faitell, S. Frisbee, R. Golden, D. Head, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kuczynski, S. McCall, S. McGovern, S. McManus, K. McNamara, A. Miller, C. Miller, R. Miller, A. Nolan, M. Parry, A. Roy–Small, A. Sandstrom, S. Selden, D. Stefanovich, C. VanNamee, R. VanWagoner, F. Vellone, J. Wilcox, J. Wilkie, L. Williams, and R. Wittenberg

Student Senators: Y. Naruse

Absent/Excused: C. Albrecht, C. Hendricks, M. McHarris, and S. Silverman

Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Approval of the September Minutes

The minutes from the October 3rd meeting were approved with some changes (S. McManus, J. Ireland) (28, 0, 0).

Student Congress Report

Y. Naruse

Y. Naruse reported that attendance at Student Congress sessions has continued to increase and that she will be attending the SUNY Assembly Conference. Signs indicating that smoking is not allowed have also been posted across campus.

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller shared some suggestions that resulted from the FCCC Wellness Check, including

- monthly meetings with Student Congress (already implemented)
- determining protocol for communication and reporting to constituencies
- documenting everything
- term limits for committee service
- codify what is and is not shared governance
- ideas to strengthen assessment
- formalize processes to ensure continuity through leadership changes

Next month there will be updates from the EIT ad hoc committee and the Committees & Councils task force. The Senate Advisory is reviewing the Senate By-laws, and comments and suggestions are welcome.

Hawks That Soar Awards

R. VanWagoner

The Pride of the Hawk Award was given to K. Siembab and the Heart of the Hawk Award was given to A. Lewis.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner addressed concerns about the default rate on student loans and shared that Cabinet is aware of how overwhelming this semester has felt. R. VanWagoner's full report is attached.

Vice Presidents' Report

E. Abreu, L. Kahler, T. Squires

In response to a question about facilities, T. Squires reported that the College is looking to replace classroom furniture. Faculty will be consulted regarding the best options. The Peer Support Service is now available and has so far been successful. More information is available on [the website](#). The full report is attached.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller shared updates from the FCCC Plenary. Highlights include:

- Math Pathways 2.0 initiative
- Trauma Informed Certificate Trainings
- AI in the classroom
- CUNY CARES (Complete Access to Resources for Essential Services)
- Gen Ed framework for DEISJ courses
- Resolution regarding non-credit to credit (to be voted on next month in Senate)

A. Miller's full presentation is available [online](#). Some conversation regarding transfer pathways and accelerated study followed.

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar reported that topics discussed in the last Caucus were related to health and wellness. In addition to a visit from L. Kahler, there was also a guest from TC3 to discuss a social justice model in the DEI conversation. The Peer Support Service was discussed, and D. Sonne presented in the Faculty Journal Club.

Open Forum

Much of the Open Forum was spent discussing the 3 hour lockdown that had happened in the morning. There is much appreciation for the Emergency Response Team, Campus Safety, and the Utica Police Department, as well as for the patience and response from the campus community.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Next Regular Senate Meeting will be: **Tuesday, December 5th at 2:30 PM via Zoom.**

The next Senate Advisory Routing Sheet for applicable Agenda item proposals is **due: Tuesday, November 21st.**

The next Senate Advisory Meeting will be **Tuesday, November 28th 2:30 PM via Teams.**

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

**President's Report to College Senate
November 7, 2023
Mohawk Valley Community College**

Trying to “Be the Storm”

You may recall my closing comment at Fall Opening – “Fate whispered to the warrior, you cannot withstand the storm and the warrior whispered back, *I am the storm.*” I shared to express my pride, confidence, and gratitude in the work of everyone at the college against a relentless tide of external forces, changes, and challenges. As the fall semester has unfolded, Cabinet has increasingly acknowledged that in this fall semester, in particular this moment of mid-term activity, it can be challenging to “be the storm” every day. I don’t have an answer for it. I just want you to know that Cabinet recognizes it and is trying to account for that periodic limited bandwidth that exists at times, as we go about our work. I can’t promise that spring won’t bring its own set of stressors, but for context I see us navigating a confluence of large, one-time, simultaneous changes this fall that are worth naming:

1. Enrollment is up 5% and full-time staffing is down 9%.
2. Implementation of a new telephone system.
3. Implementation of a new Brightspace Learning Management System for all online courses.
4. Implementation of Fast Track and the exponential growth that is testing and stretching all of our standard enrollment systems.
5. Implementation of SUNY’s new general education/DEISJ curriculum requirements.
6. Implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.
7. Implementation of a \$5M comprehensive fundraising campaign with the MVCC Foundation.
8. The anxiety of artificial intelligence and trying to help students use it appropriately.
9. Supporting students with ever-increasing and complex mental health and overall well-being needs.
10. And everything in the Annual Plan that we were planning on doing anyway- it’s just a lot.

With all of this in mind, I am grateful for the general positive energy and wonderful work everyone is doing thus far this semester. I share these thoughts not as an excuse, but rather a reminder of the importance for everyone to be patient with themselves and each other; assume good intentions; seek support and provide support when needed; and lastly, a reminder to find kindness and gratitude in those times when it’s difficult to “be the storm.”

Aspen Fellowship for Experienced Presidents

I’ve completed the orientation and onboarding sessions for the year-long Fellowship and am excited about what I’ve learned thus far. The focus is to share best practices from the Aspen Prize winning colleges within a new framework of “Community Colleges 3.0.” Think of 1.0 as “access” and 2.0 as “access and success.” Community Colleges 3.0 builds on 2.0 to

also include post-graduate outcomes like baccalaureate attainment and job placement in a career path. I'm encouraged by their recognition of the need to apply their research and insights in ways most appropriate to the culture. I will continue to keep the College Senate updated as the year unfolds.

KPI: "MVCC provides accessible educational opportunities."

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to assess the extent to which MVCC provides accessible educational opportunities is measured by three specific measurements that include:

1. **Student loan default rate** – We were seeing a slow and steady decline from 18% to 16% between 2014-2018 before the Federal COVID stimulus dollars and student loan payment suspension drove the rate to 0%/N/A. This will likely impact the rate through 2025.
2. **Tuition is below SUNY average** – MVCC has the 10th lowest tuition (\$5,162) and is \$128 below the average tuition (\$5,290) among the 30 SUNY community colleges.
3. **Courses are conveniently offered for students** – In fall 2023, no class sections were cancelled in the last week of registration and we filled 81% of all available seats.



Vice Presidents' Senate Report
November 7, 2023

- The 10th annual CNY Hackathon will be held in Wilcox Hall on Friday, November 11th. Over 100 students are registered from MVCC, SUNY Poly, Utica U., Syracuse U., and U. Albany. We've also developed High-school level challenges and are expecting 50 local high school students as well. Student teams are challenged to defend their virtual computers from simulated attacks from our "Red Team".
- MVCC Athletics has won the bid to host the NJCAA Division III Track and Field Nationals for both Spring 2024 and Spring 2025. Our congratulations go out to Dean DiMaggio and his team.
- In collaboration with the college counselors and Human Services faculty, the Learning Commons has initiated a Peer Support program. This program offers a confidential listening service provided by fellow students, aiming to create a supportive community within the campus. Peers listen with compassion and authenticity. They develop connections, facilitate processing, honor individual choice, and connect students to campus and community resources that support well-being. One-on-one appointments are available in the Learning Commons every weekday. Appointments last up to 40 minutes and occur in a private office. They can be booked a week in advance through the peer support button on our main page.
- It is important to note that Peer support is not counseling or therapy and is not a replacement for those services. Peer staff are trained to connect students with counseling and other support services as needed. It's important to note that Peer Support is not a substitute for counseling or therapy services. Our peer staff members are equipped to guide students in accessing professional counseling and other support services should the need arise.
- MVCC will be hosting, at the ThINCubator, an International Exporting Event on November 30th. The event will bring together small businesses in the region and offer presentations by AIM, SBDC, Global NY, and U.S. Commercial Services.
- MVCC's Advanced Institute for Manufacturing has launched its NYS Cybersecurity Manufacturing Initiatives Grant and has assisted 14 advanced manufacturers in the state and has the funds to assist 44 more.
- Wynn Hospital opened this past weekend. Faculty/students working through the transition to new hospital for seamless clinical experience.

- We would like to congratulate the School of Health Sciences on an outstanding achievement. The Nursing program had a 100% NCLEX pass rate. Congratulations to all.
- The Rome Campus Grassroots Initiatives Team held a free Trick or Treat Street community event for children and their families. We had more than 20 tables with Rome community partners and MVCC departments represented, and about 500 children along with about 500 adults attended the event in the Plumley Complex on Thursday, Oct. 26, 4-6 pm. Kids received candy, free books, and other giveaways.
- Staff worked with the new Student Congress VP for Rome on a tabling event on Oct. 30. Students picked up cider and halfmoon cookies and shared ideas for Rome student activities.
- Drone soccer practices have started. Practices are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-5:00pm on the MVCC Rome campus.
- Rome Student Services hosted a Welcome Back Lunch/Student Services open house to introduce the staff and the new food pantry. About 65 students attended, including some who came from the A&P hangar, CNA class, BOCES PROPEL classes, and College Works. Following the event, more students began to use the food pantry especially for morning snacks.
- OPWDD finished up their last two weeks of their academy on the Rome campus during the first two weeks of October. They had their graduation ceremony on 10/13 in PC150 with around 40 family members in attendance. The City of Rome held two CDBG Public Service Information Sessions in PC119 on 10/17 & 10/18.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esmilda Abreu
Tom Squires
Lew Kahler