

**MVCC College Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**  
2:30pm via Zoom

**Attendance**

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

**Student Senators:** Y. Naruse, M. Stevens

**Absent/Excused:** C. Albrecht, S. Dar, M. McHarris, S. McManus, R. Miller, A. Sandstrom, S. Silverman, D. Stefanovich, C. VanNamee, and J. Wilkie

**Call to Order**

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm.

**Approval of the February Minutes**

The minutes from the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved (A. Roy–Small, R. Wittenberg) (22, 0, 0).

**Student Congress Report | Y. Naruse**

Y. Naruse reported that L. Suppe is the new vice president for the Utica campus and P. Wah is the new treasurer.

Y. Naruse then shared an update on the SUNY Student Assembly (SA) resolution that she has been instrumental in moving forward. The resolution supports the proposal developed by the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) which aims to reduce the funding gap between SUNY four-year and two-year colleges by increasing funding to community colleges by \$97 million. The SUNY SA Executive Committee unanimously passed the resolution at the February meeting, and it will be brought to a vote at the SUNY SA Spring Conference.

In the interim, Y. Naruse is seeking information and ideas regarding the financial need for resources and services at MVCC, and the positive impacts on students.

R. VanWagoner commended Y. Naruse on her initiative in sending this to the Student Assembly, and remarked that this prompted the SA to send their first-ever statewide media release. Trustees and presidents from across the SUNY community colleges have recognized and shared their appreciation for this public advocacy work.

## Old Business

### Committees and Councils Taskforce Recommendations | S. Frisbee

S. Frisbee shared and reviewed the four items to be voted upon (see attached). Discussions and results of each vote are as follows:

- Vote #1: Senate Committee Description and List
  - Whether committees should be required to meet more than once each semester will be reviewed during the Senate By-Laws review.
  - E. Bush (S. Crocker) motioned to approve the items under Vote #1. The motion passed unanimously (26, 0, 0).
- Vote #2: Senate Council Description and List
  - K. Cordary (A. Nolan) motioned to approve the items under Vote #2. The motion passed unanimously (28, 0, 0).
- Vote #3: Personnel Committee Description and List
  - K. McNamara (S. Crocker) motioned to approve the items under Vote #3. The motion passed unanimously (27, 0, 0).
- Vote #4: Dissolutions and Discontinuances
  - Though the Guided Pathways Steering Committee will be dissolved, the work will not stop. It is now engrained in the College culture and will continue in the new built-in systems at the institution.
  - R. Wittenberg (C. Cordary) motioned to approve the items under Vote #4. The motion passed unanimously (27, 0, 0).

A supplemental document listing additional definitions and next steps for the Taskforce can be found on Teams.

## New Business

### Update to General Education Assessment Plan | M. Barlett

M. Barlett shared the following overview of changes:

- Improved definitions and associations with letter grades (rather than percentages) for the categories of exceeding, meeting, approaching, and not approaching
- Updated rubrics to have consistent wording and layout; of particular note:
  - rubric for Information Literacy
  - rubric for Humanities
  - new rubric for DEI standards
  - removed rubric for World History
- Updated timeline to every semester rather than every four years, including contacting dual credit instructors
- The software “Watermark” will be used for future surveys and data reporting, as it is easier to use than Argos, and may even be able to import data from Bright Space depending on how outcomes are set up.

M. Barlett forwarded [a more detailed summary](#) following the Senate meeting and senators should review the [full Gen Ed Assessment Plan](#) between now and the next Senate meeting.

L. Kahler and R. VanWagoner shared their appreciation for the work done by the General Education Committee.

### Chairperson's Report | C. Miller

C. Miller shared that the EIT Ad Hoc Committee does not yet have a new chair, but progress has been made. The committee will present at the Senate meeting in May. The Report from the FCCC Wellness Check is available in the folders on the Senate Teams page. Senators should review the report in preparation for the April Senate meeting.

Now that the initial work of the Committees and Councils Taskforce is complete, C. Miller will charge the new Taskforce in the upcoming week. Those interested in joining should contact C. Miller.

C. Miller also remarked that her regular meetings with Student Congress have been incredibly beneficial.

### President's Report | R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner commented on the College Update he recently emailed out, and said he will try to schedule some additional times for virtual budget discussions. For the full report, see attached.

### Vice Presidents' Report | E. Abreu, L. Kahler, T. Squires

Highlights from the conversation about the Vice Presidents' Report (full report attached) include the following:

- In response to a question, L. Kahler remarked that it is uncertain at this time when Watermark will be implemented. A team has recently been formed to investigate the interface between Watermark and Bright Space.
- T. Squires clarified the difference between a fire drill and a test of the fire alarm system. When there is a drill, there is no warning beforehand and evacuation of the building is expected. During a test of the system, however, there will be advanced notification and evacuation is not required.

### FCCC Report | A. Miller

The FCCC will hold its plenary next month. The Executive Committee passed a resolution to support the NYCCAP budget advocacy release and, inspired by the Student Assembly, may do a media release as well. A. Miller shared [an article from the Rome Sentinel](#) about funding equity with good data, and the Executive Committee is investigating ways FCCC can better support community colleges. Lastly, A. Miller has received feedback that the 4-6 core credits may not be sufficient for most majors, and suggestions are welcome.

## Questions & Open Forum

Questions and Concerns discussed include:

- The Bookstore will purchase regalia rather than renting it this year. Please respond to the survey.
- A suggestion to add a crosswalk near the Faculty/Staff parking lot. However, it is not possible due to several requirements, including placement of curb cuts and level of the road.
- The MVCC Supports Black History Month was a wonderful idea from Student Affairs, with significant student support and appreciation. This should be continued in the future.
- E. Abreu is currently on leave. A. Roy-Small and R. VanWagoner are working with the deans and the Cabinet in the interim.
- Members of the College are encouraged to attend the Faculty/Staff Open Mic, held tonight at 7:00pm in the Theater.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

## Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Next Regular Senate Meeting will be: **Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 PM via Zoom.**

The next Senate Advisory Routing Sheet for applicable Agenda item proposals is **due: Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.**

The next Senate Advisory Meeting will be **Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM via Teams.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski

# Senate Task Force on Committees and Councils

## Final Version for March 2024 Senate Vote

Mohawk Valley Community College

### VOTE #1

#### Senate Committee – *defining characteristics*

- Tasks generally related to operations, academics, assessment
- Membership from across the college
- Meet at least once per semester
- Minutes, as appropriate, posted to Teams/website
- Senate can request committee review a task and bring recommendations back to Senate
- Items for Senate review, consideration, and comment submitted through Senate Advisory
- Written annual report shared on Teams/website
- Elected seats to be filled through Senate elections
- Appointed seats to be made by Senate Chair & College President
- Changes in charge or composition requires approval through College Senate
- Listed on governance website

#### List of Proposed Senate Committees

- Academic Policies and Standards Committee
- Academic Program Reviews Committee
- Appeals Committee (combining Academic and Non-Academic) \*\*
- College-Wide Curriculum Committee
- General Education Committee
- Facilities and Sustainability Committee (combining Facilities with Sustainability Council) \*\*
- Safety and Security Committee (absorbing Traffic Committee) \*\*
- Electronic Information and Technology (EIT) Committee – Ad Hoc

**\*\*pending membership review process**

### VOTE #2

#### Senate Council – *defining characteristics*

- Tasks generally related to overall welfare of the college & maintaining the college culture
- Membership from across the college
- Meet at least once per semester
- Items for Senate review, consideration, and comment submitted through Senate Advisory
- Written annual report shared on Teams/website
- Elected seats to be filled through Senate elections
- Appointed seats to be made by Senate Chair & College President
- Changes in charge or composition requires approval through College Senate
- Listed on governance website

#### List of Proposed Senate Councils

- Annual Planning Council
- Diversity Council
- Employee Enrichment Council
- Employee Recognition Council
- HawkVision
- Institutional Effectiveness Council
- International Initiatives Council (formerly Committee)
- Wellness Council

### VOTE #3

#### **Personnel Committees – *defining characteristics***

- Tasks related to personnel issues
- Meet when needed, activated and coordinated through Human Resources
- Elections held through College Senate
- Changes in charge or composition requires approval through College Senate
- Listed on governance website

#### **List of Proposed Personnel Committees**

- Career Appointments Committee
- Continuing Appointments Committee
- Promotion Review Committee for Faculty
- Promotion Review Committee for Non-Teaching Professionals
- Sabbatical Leave Committee

### VOTE #4

#### **DISSOLUTIONS/DISCONTINUANCES**

- Diversity and Global View Committee
- Guided Pathways Steering Committee

Task Force Members: Steve Frisbee, Nick Evanoff, Stacey McCall, Anna Radlowski, Jess Wilkie

Dated 2/29/2024

# President's Report to College Senate

February 6, 2024

Mohawk Valley Community College

## Budget Development for 2024-25

With enrollment up last fall and this spring above conservative budget projections for this current year, we are in a more positive fiscal position than we've seen in years. However, MVCC has the third lowest ranking among the 30 SUNY community colleges in terms of our fund balance reserve as a percentage of our total operating budget. This means that we need to build our fund balance up to further strengthen the college's financial position to minimize the impact of future fiscal disruptions. Budget development has begun for next year and we'll be scheduling our annual Campus Conversations regarding the budget for the week after spring break in March.

## Governance Review

Thank you to the task force on the review of our governance structure and to everyone who has engaged in the conversation over the past few months. I know these are not easy conversations and I am so proud of our collective ability to even have the conversations, leave alone what I trust will be a thoughtful set of recommendations. Hopefully, one indirect outcome of the process is the understanding that once changes have been implemented, we can revisit structures, systems, and processes, as needed in the future and don't have to wait decades to conduct a comprehensive review all at once. More directly, I'm optimistic about the possibility of having a more efficient governance structure that allows the college to continue adapting quickly to changes in our external environment while maintaining a robust environment for effective governance.

## KPI: MVCC is committed to student success

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to assess various measures of student success include several metrics as summarized in the following narrative. It's important to note that these data represent the entering students cohorts of the pandemic in fall 2020 and fall 2021.

- **Graduation rates - 2 and 3 year:** The two-year graduation rate (based on the IPEDS cohort definition) increased from 24% to 25% from the previous year and more than doubled since the entering cohort of 2011, increasing from 12% to 25%. The three-year graduation rate increased from 23% to 33% from the entering cohort of 2011 to 2015 and has plateaued between 33% and 35% in the past four years - declining from 34% to 33% for the most recent cohort.
- **Average credit hours at graduation:** Based on the IPEDS cohort, the average credits at graduation have declined from the class of 2011 (67.6 credits) to 2022 (63.5) for associate degree recipients and has remained very stable for certificate recipients (34 credits). Supplemental data for all students (not just the IPEDS cohort) show that the average credit hours at graduation have declined from 83 in 2019 to 71 in 2023, which is up from 68 for the 2022 graduating class.
- **Early momentum indicators 12/semester & 30 annually in 1st year:** Based on the VFA cohort, 41% of students complete 12 credits in their first semester and 30+ credits in their first year compared to 28% of all other VFA college participants. This trend is fairly consistent over the past three years.
- **Gateway momentum - college level math/English in first year:** We experienced a slight decline in the percentage of students that completed college-level English and math in their first year from 2020 to 2021.
- **Program credit momentum-9 program credits in the first year:** In Fall of 2021, exactly 50% of first-time students earned nine or more credit hours in their program of study in their first year. That metric increased to 64% in Fall 2022 and further increased to 72% in Fall 2023 (including Spring 2024 registrations).

# Vice-Presidents' Report

March 5, 2024

Mohawk Valley Community College

- The College has successfully completed the application for NC-SARA and received approval. NC SARA is an agreement which allows colleges to enroll students from states other than New York into online classes and programs. Any college that is not a member of NC SARA must make individual agreements with states which can be complicated and cost prohibitive. This ensures that the college is fully compliant with federal regulations on online enrollment.
- Watermark implementation is underway. Watermark is a survey and self-study, APR, POAR assessment software tool . Watermark will help to increase the response rate on student course surveys and will be used to collect assessment data which can effectively be used for the Middle States report. Academic Affairs and IR are currently forming the implementation team.
- As a follow-up to last month's report, MVCC has received full approval from the Department of Corrections for the expansion of our prison program offerings. The Second Chance PELL applications have also been approved, and the final substantive change paperwork for those locations has been submitted to MSCHE.
- The College is required to test the fire alarm systems in each building three times a year. We try to schedule one for each Fall and Spring semester, with one in the Summer. It is critically important that you exit the building when the fire alarm system is activated, even if you think it is a drill!
- The College is partnering with Daneli & Associates to pilot an emotional assessment instrument for students. Neuroscience has conclusively demonstrated that the decisions we make are driven first and foremost by our emotions, not by our rational thoughts. The AgileBrain assessment tool leverages this insight by restricting responses to the period before thinking can occur, which means that responses are primarily emotional in nature, and are free of cognitive filters and distortions. We are running a pilot with students this spring semester through our counseling services and career center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Squires  
Lew Kahler  
Esmilda Abreu