

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

2:30pm WH 225

Attendance

Present

E. Brindisi	E. Bush	K. Cordary	S. Crocker	S. Dar
H. Doty	M. Faitell	S. Frisbee	R. Golden	D. Head
C. Hendricks	J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski	T. Lock	S. McGovern
M. McHarris	S. McManus	K. McNamara	A. Miller	C. Miller
R. Miller	A. Nolan	M. Parry	A. Roy–Small	S. Selden
C. VanNamee	F. Vellone	J. Wilcox	J. Wilkie	L. Williams
R. Wittenberg				

Student Senators

O. Ma

Absent/Excused

T. Burke	N. Evanoff	R. Huyck	K. Montague	S. Silverman
R. VanWagoner	L. Warring			

Call to Order

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

Welcome FCCC President Candice Vacin

C. Vacin

FCCC President C. Vacin has visited all SUNY community college campuses, and commented on the great connection between FCCC and MVCC. She summarized what happens at FCCC meetings and plenaries, and shared how FCCC engages with the State and the SUNY Chancellor, especially with regards to budget advocacy.

Review of the April 1st Minutes

The minutes from the April 1st Senate Meeting were approved (R. Wittenberg, J. Ireland) (31, 0, 0).

Student Congress Report

O. Ma

O. Ma shared the election results, with A. Vasquez elected president, S. Ni Thein elected Vice President of Utica, S. Beckham Vice President of Rome, J. Hayes the Student Trustee, and V. Wiegand the Program Board Director.

O. Ma attended the SUNY Student Assembly (SA) and was elected as a SUNY SA representative for next year, when she will represent five colleges at the SUNY SA.

Old Business

Credit for Experiential Learning Fee (2nd Reading)

H. Doty

The Senate unanimously voted to endorse the change from a per credit-hour fee to a flat fee. (M. Parry, A. Nolan) (31, 0, 0)

Senate By-Laws Revisions (2nd Reading)

Senate Advisory

M. Kuczynski presented the changes to the Senate By-laws on behalf of the Senate Advisory. The most substantial structural difference is Appendix 3, where the workflow was broken into two parts consisting of norms for proposing items to be voted on, and norms for voting on items.

There was some discussion regarding how senators at-large should solicit feedback, with a suggested goal for Senate Advisory and Cabinet to clarify the roles for departmental and at-large senators, as well as to identify best practices for communicating with constituents. S. Dar raised a concern that some items are posted to Teams and the College Website, while others are posted only to Teams. A. Miller clarified that those materials that should be public are posted on both Teams and the website, while those that are more private are housed only on Teams.

E. Brindisi moved to adopt the revisions to the by-laws (S. Crocker second). The motion passed unanimously. (31, 0, 0)

C. Miller thanked the by-laws subgroup (E. Brindisi, M. Kuczynski, A. Miller, and L. Williams) for their hard work.

EIT Ad-Hoc Final Recommendations

A. Nolan, V. Fuentes

A. Nolan shared an overview of **the report**. The committee met periodically over two years, researching best practices from other institutions, and consulting resources such as SUNY Empire videos, the Office of Accessibility Resources, Facilities, and Ed Tech. The committee focused primarily on digital content and classroom technologies. A. Nolan highlighted the five standards required by SUNY EIT Policy, and explained how the College will meet each standard. New resources, including a webpage and an Accessibility MyMV tile, will be rolled-out in August, with trainings held during August Institute. Moving forward, B. Rogan will be the EIT Coordinator.

New Business

APSC Academic Amnesty Policy Change (1st Reading)

H. Doty, A. Lewis, S. McCall

An unfortunate component of the current policy was found in which a student who did poorly in the past but returned to the College and earned a 4.0 GPA would have to apply for academic amnesty. A. Lewis and H. Doty discussed how to adjust the policy to allow students to return successfully without having to appeal a dismissal (the current work-around). The goal of the new policy is to enable students to work towards the 12 credits to improve their GPA, with a consistent timeframe whether full- or part- time.

R. Golden shared a concern that returning students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher when the graduation requirement is 2.0. A. Lewis explained that if the students have 12 credits with a 2.5 or higher, then even with poor past performance, they will have the 2.0 overall cumulative GPA to graduate.

The policy will be voted on at the Special Senate meeting.

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

C. Miller shared reflections on the FCCC Plenary, and that she will lead a regional cohort of community colleges, consisting of Herkimer, Cayuga, Mohawk Valley, and Onondaga. The goal of the regional cohorts is to offer peer support, foster engagement, and deepen the understanding of shared governance internally and externally.

Senate elections are complete and winners have been informed. Those who did not win will be notified and S. Frisbee, C. Miller, and R. VanWagoner will determine joint appointments. C. Miller also shared the agenda for the upcoming Summer Institute for Mentorship of College Senators. The Special Senate Meeting will be May 19th at 1:00pm in WH 225, and the Senate Advisory will have their annual meeting with Cabinet this Friday at 2:00pm.

C. Miller thanked outgoing senators L. Williams, L. Warring, M. Parry, M. Faitell, R. Huyck, and S. Dar for their work during their terms. Senate Advisory members will be elected at the Special Senate Meeting, and C. Miller encouraged senators to consider serving on Advisory.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner was unable to attend this month's meeting; please refer to the **written report**.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, K. Pine, T. Squires

There was a discussion regarding the sunset of CSTEP. A search will be conducted for a new Director of Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) and there will be supports for current CSTEP students to finish their degrees. For additional information, please refer to the **written report**.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller reported on the FCCC Plenary, highlighting the following:

- There were several questions and concerns regarding the recent federal executive orders and the “Dear Colleague” letter that set the general tone of the Plenary.
- The Transfer Task Force Report revealed that SUNY Transfer rates are better than the country as a whole, but we can still improve. Places to focus include:
 - full-time community college students are more successful than part-time students at transferring, and are more successful at completing a four year degree when they do
 - students who complete their associates degree prior to transferring are more successful than those who do not
 - improved supports for part-time students are needed
 - faculty at community colleges should discuss transfer with students early, participate in the refinement of the SUNY Transfer Pathways, and communicate better with 4-year schools
- Different measures of “success” for community college students were discussed, including the Richmond Fed Success Rate and Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA).
- Community Colleges prepare students well for success at 4-year institutions and are a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

Additionally, the **resolution** and **letter** shared last month were unanimously endorsed by FCCC. There were no questions or concerns from senators regarding the Resolution Calling on the NY State Congressional Delegation to Support the United States Department of Education. The Senate unanimously voted to endorse the resolution (A. Miller, L. Williams) (29, 0, 0).

A. Miller suggested some actionable steps, including:

- evaluate adding academic freedom protection to purview of Senate committee
- foster conversation and community-building on our campus
- create an MVCC “fact book” with economic impact data to help us articulate our value

A. Miller will be available throughout the summer and encourages Senators to connect with her.

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar reported that the Faculty Caucus met on Tuesday, April 15th. The renovations plan for WH 150 was endorsed, and R. Wittenberg provided updates on the Middle States Self Study process. A. Miller shared FCCC Plenary updates, and there was discussion on the upcoming resolutions. Faculty expressed concerns about CSTEP shutting down.

Nominations for Chair, Secretary, Caucus Advisory, and DEI Advisory are requested. Nominees will be posted to Teams before the next Caucus.

This is S. Dar's last report as Chair of Faculty Caucus and, after 13 years, her last Senate meeting.

Questions and Open Forum

No announcements, questions, or concerns were raised.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Monday, May 19th at 1:00PM in WH 225

Next Regular Senate Meeting: Tuesday, September 2nd at 2:30PM in WH 225

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, August 19th, 2025

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, August 26th at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski