

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

2:30pm Teams

Attendance

Present

E. Brindisi	T. Burke	E. Bush	K. Cordary	S. Crocker
H. Doty	N. Evanoff	A. Fried	S. Frisbee	R. Golden
C. Hendricks	J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski	T. Locke	S. McCall
A. Miller	C. Miller	K. Montague	A. Nolan	B. Rogan
A. Roy–Small	S. Selden	D. Sonne	D. Swiss	C. VanNamee
R. VanWagoner	F. Vellone	J. Wilcox	J. Wilkie	R. Wittenberg

Student Senators

A. Vazquez

Absent/Excused

K. Hanna	M. McHarris	S. McManus	K. McNamara	R. Miller
Y. Riesbeck	S. Silverman			

Call to Order

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

Review of September 2nd Minutes

The minutes from the September 2nd meeting were approved (R. Wittenberg, C. Hendricks), (26, 0, 0).

Student Congress Report

A. Vazquez

A. Vazquez mentioned that there are two people interested in being treasurer for Student Congress and announced that the student trustee is E. Foster. The SUNY Student Assembly will be November 14–16. Proposals have begun coming in as well.

Old Business

Posthumous Graduation Policy

H. Doty

After the discussion at last month's Senate, certificates were added to the policy. The policy formalizes a practice that has historically been done at the College. A. Roy–Small motioned in support of the policy (S. Crocker second), and the Senate voted in unanimous favor (29, 0, 0).

New Business

Policy on Policies – First Reading

A. Nolan

A. Nolan shared that reasons for the policy include transparency and accessibility, following a template from the state, compliance and reduced institutional risk, ensuring regular review, Middlestates compliance, and best practice in higher education. Additional benefits include strengthening the shared governance process through increased Senate involvement, and keeping the process up-to-date. G. Karol currently has the template for policies moving forward, and they will be on the Board of Trustees website in the future. A. Nolan remarked that the Secretary to the Board of Trustees and the Director of Compliance will be responsible to enforce the Policy on Policies.

Sexual/Romantic Relationship Policy – First Reading

C. Marceau

Changes to the 2019 policy include adding stronger language to prohibit student-employee relationships, enhanced definitions (such as using “officer/employee”), stronger language regarding enforcement, clarifications to the procedure (especially for preexisting romantic or marital relationships prior to enrollment), and a section on confidentiality. An attorney consulted on the language used in the policy.

Facilities and Sustainability Committee Membership Update

B. Rogan

The committee would like to change some memberships to an “as needed” basis, and the residence hall and dining services roles were combined into one seat. The revised membership list will be available for a vote next month.

Appeals Committee Membership Update

A. Lewis

The committee requested altering the number of student positions to a minimum of four (rather than a requirement of six), with the option to allow additional students to serve if there is interest. Additional changes include updates to training, adding language that the committee makes recommendations regarding appeals (but not final decisions), and adding a note that only employees on the committee participate in Title IX discussions. Some guiding points were also added. A motion to approve the changes passed unanimously. (A. Roy–Small, K. Cordary) (31, 0, 0).

Gen Ed Committee Update

A. Lewis

Two courses (BM 101 and PY 1010) have been approved for the new SUNY category of Civic Discourse, so only a few AS/AAS programs will need to make changes to come into compliance. Additional courses are under review to be added and the Quick Reference Guide will be shared once reviews are complete.

Discussion of “SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges Defending the Integrity of Shared Governance and Condemning the Administrative Leadership of Nassau Community College”

A. Miller

A. Miller shared that the FCCC is currently without a vice-president due to a conflict between the elected vice president and her institution. A. Miller shared additional context and history surrounding how institutions have traditionally compensated FCCC presidents and vice-presidents with release time, along with the consequences of the FCCC being without a vice-president. An election will take place in two weeks.

A robust discussion about whether or not to endorse the statement from FCCC then followed. Although there had been miscommunication between the elected vice-president and her institution regarding release time, senators had concerns about explicitly naming and condemning other institutions when administrative and union factors are at play, and not all of their internal information is available to senators. Senators did express support for elected FCCC officers and there appeared to be general agreement that release time for those positions should be the standard. Some suggested that the matter should be discussed and formalized through SUNY to allow for equal opportunity and release time for officers to be elected from any FCCC institution.

A motion (A. Miller, S. McCall) to support the FCCC resolution failed (1, 18, 13).

C. Miller encouraged senators to further reflect on the value of shared governance and FCCC, and how the Senate might show its support for FCCC. A. Miller suggested that MVCC could write its own resolution of support.

Standing Reports

Chair Report

C. Miller

T. Squires is retiring from MVCC, and he expressed his appreciation for his time at the College, remarking that it felt like home. On behalf of the Senate, C. Miller wished him well on his next venture.

C. Miller summarized her recent activities, including having met with members of the Standard VII Committee as part of the Middlestates Review, and she is researching additional ways to create groups and spaces for mentors/mentees to connect throughout the year. She regularly meets with the president, vice-presidents, and Senate vice-chair, and is a member of IEC and the Senate Advisory. R. VanWagoner and C. Miller plan to meet with the chairs of Senate committees and councils, and C. Miller will report on those meetings in the future. Additionally, she will attend the upcoming FCCC Fall Plenary.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner thanked J. Ireland and B. Rogan for bringing the situation with the laptop loaner program to the College's attention, and \$8,000 has been raised since the last Senate meeting to purchase ten new laptops. Although there is an ongoing federal government shutdown, the

Office of Federal Student Aid is remaining open. A search for the vice-president of administrative services is posted, and T. Squires will continue to work part-time through November and into December on special contract.

R. VanWagoner also updated the Senate on the impact the new science building will have on campus parking. About 43% of the current parking spaces in the impacted lot will be lost, but the College can guarantee that there will be available parking on campus (although close proximity to buildings cannot be guaranteed). A banner with additional information will be posted to the fence surrounding construction.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, K. Pine, T. Squires

There were no comments or questions on the report (available on Teams).

SUNY Transfer Liaison Report

H. Doty

There was nothing to report on at this time.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller will attend the Fall Plenary with M. Barlett and C. Miller. Please contact any one of them with questions or concerns.

Faculty Caucus Report

A. Fried

A. Fried shared that the next meeting will be October 21st in Payne Hall 300, with an option to attend virtually. Please bring issues to A. Fried if you would like them discussed.

Questions and Open Forum

No announcements, questions, or concerns were raised.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, November 4th at 2:30PM via Teams

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, October 28th at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski