

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, November 4, 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
K. Hanna	C. Hendricks	J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski	S. McCall
S. McManus	K. McNamara	A. Miller	C. Miller	R. Miller
A. Nolan	Y. Riesbeck	B. Rogan	A. Roy–Small	S. Selden
D. Sonne	D. Swiss	C. Van Namee	R. VanWagoner	F. Vellone
J. Wilkie	C. Wilson	R. Wittenberg		

Student Senators

A. Vazquez

Absent/Excused

T. Locke	M. McHarris	K. Montague	S. Silverman	J. Wilcox
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Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Review of September 2nd Minutes

After a small adjustment, the October 7th minutes were approved (S. Crocker, M. Kuczynski) (31, 0, 1).

Pride of the Hawk & Heart of the Hawk Awards

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner presented the Heart of the Hawk Award to J. Piejko, and the Pride of the Hawk Award to S. Miller.

Student Congress Report

A. Vazquez

A. Vazquez reported that O. Ma has been elected as treasurer. Most of the Executive Team will attend the SUNY Student Assembly Conference next week. Additional updates included concerns about the **Bronson Bill**, news about a social media campaign from the Film Club, renovations to the Student Congress office are nearly complete (including hosting an art contest in which the winner will receive a \$100 Visa gift card and their art will adorn the Student Congress door), met with Chief Coromato about body cameras for public safety officers, placement of signs by the buttons for handicapped doors, and updates to the Student Engagement hallway (including a consideration to rename the hallway in S. Cummings' honor).

Old Business

Policy on Policies – Second Reading

A. Nolan

Anne made one small change under the definitions section on protocol to clarify the ownership of protocol. The policy was presented to faculty caucus two weeks ago. S. Crocker moved to endorse the policy (A. Roy–Small second). The motion carried (32, 0, 0).

Sexual/Romantic Relationship Policy – Second Reading

C. Marceau

There have been no changes since the policy was presented to Senate. It has been endorsed by the Faculty Caucus and Student Congress. The Senate voted to endorse the policy (E. Brindisi, M. Kuczynski) (32, 0, 0).

Facilities and Sustainability Committee Charter Update

B. Rogan

Changes to the charter were discussed, with a suggestion to list positions on the form rather than employee names. A. Miller suggested the removal of the “faculty/staff” description of “group” to be inclusive of students. E. Bush moved to approve the changes to the charter (C. Hendricks second). The motion passed (32, 0, 0).

New Business

Middle States Update

A. Nolan, R. Wittenberg

A. Nolan and R. Wittenberg shared that work towards the Middle States review is well underway, and they thanked everyone who has been a part of the process. Within each of the seven standard workgroups, teams of 2-3 people have been writing narratives about individual criteria. Next, each group will determine commitments (what the College can improve on in the future) and commendations (what the College does exceptionally well). The third deliverable will be putting all the narratives together for each standard, due by the end of the ajar period. In the Spring, the narrative drafts will be revised. A taskforce will review the narratives and revisions in the Spring, with the full report compiled and sent to the writing team by the end of the Spring Semester. The full draft will be shared to the College Community by Fall 2026.

In the meantime, the Core Workshop this year has focused on the College's Mission Statement and the Data Summit in January will be focused on Middle States.

Conversation about Tabling Groups & Campus Atmosphere

Breakout Groups

The Senate discussed the requirements for groups wishing to hold a tabling event on campus. Although the conversation was sparked by a recent controversy surrounding such an event, the goal of the conversation was broader with regards to requirements for events and awareness of such events in the future. Highlights from the conversation include:

- The current forms are fairly straightforward, though they do not fully specify what the facility fees are. There is a **fee schedule** on the website, though it is not listed on the form.
- A standard vetting process could be used in the future, similar to that used for subawards or vendors attending jobs fairs. Although the College cannot just deny groups coming in, they can vet each group to ensure materials shared by the group are accurate. Similarly, perhaps the Event Request Form could have a section for organizations to put their intent, goal, or philosophy to see whether they align with the College's mission.
- Suggestions for enhanced signage were given, such as signs that indicate the sponsor of the event, or signs for external agencies that indicate they are not affiliated with MVCC. Similarly, permits that have been granted should be visible.

Standing Reports

Chair Report

C. Miller

C. Miller attended the FCCC Plenary (see the FCCC Report). Campus governance leaders developed a resolution asserting faculty purview over curriculum at the Plenary.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner will send a College Update by the end of the week, and expressed appreciation for everyone's patience with the recent power outage and hazmat situation. He encouraged College employees to complete the Climate Survey. See the attached report for additional information.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, K. Pine

See the attached report. There were no questions.

SUNY Transfer Liaison Report

H. Doty

H. Doty relayed information from a webinar call concerning transfer path management, including which courses have been reviewed, which haven't, and how active the courses are. Additionally, a recent Transfer Town Hall provided information about the seamless transfer process, success metrics, and campus targets. Lastly, there's a designated space for student transfer events on the SUNY Transfer hub, which are open to all students or campus partners.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller shared the following information from the FCCC Plenary:

- **Academic Momentum Campaign**
Representatives were introduced to Donna Linderman. There were several questions and concerns regarding the program. Requirements for English and math gateway courses are being discussed, and SUNY is asking for proposals for curriculum development in those areas specifically.
- **Transfer**
Although SUNY has claimed faculty involvement in the Transfer Advisory Council (TAC), A. Miller pointed out that she is the faculty representative, and meetings have been held when she is teaching a class. The meetings have been rescheduled as a result. Additionally, a committee was convened last April to discuss SUNY Transfer Seamless Pathways, but has not met since. There will be a meeting in the future, and a survey is being written to identify which programs need revision.
- **Returning Adult Students**
One of the presentations that had a generally positive response was from the Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges (Valerie Dent). Supports for returning students other than just tuition-based were discussed, as well as partnering with Achieving the Dream (ATD) to help campuses hold more weekend and evening classes to meet adult needs.
- **Title II**
The Academic Affairs Branch of SUNY Offices presented information on how the changes for Title II are being supported on the SUNY Level. An early version of this training was held on MVCC's campus. Additional information can be found on **their website**.

A. Miller also encouraged Senators to review three resolutions before next month's meeting, at which she will ask for endorsement of the resolutions. These include:

- Faculty Purview Over the Curriculum and Academic Standards
- Advancing Shared Governance Excellence and Protecting Campus and Statewide Faculty Representation
- Academic Freedom and Legal Guidance for Faculty

These resolutions can be found in the **blue folder** for this month's meeting.

Faculty Caucus Report

A. Fried

A. Fried shared that the next meeting of the Faculty Caucus will be at 2:30pm on November 18th in PH 300, with an option to attend online.

Questions and Open Forum

B. Rogan shared a reminder that it is important for everyone to update from Windows 10 to Windows 11. If you aren't sure how to do so, please submit a Ticket to I.T.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

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

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, November 11th, 2025

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, November 25th at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

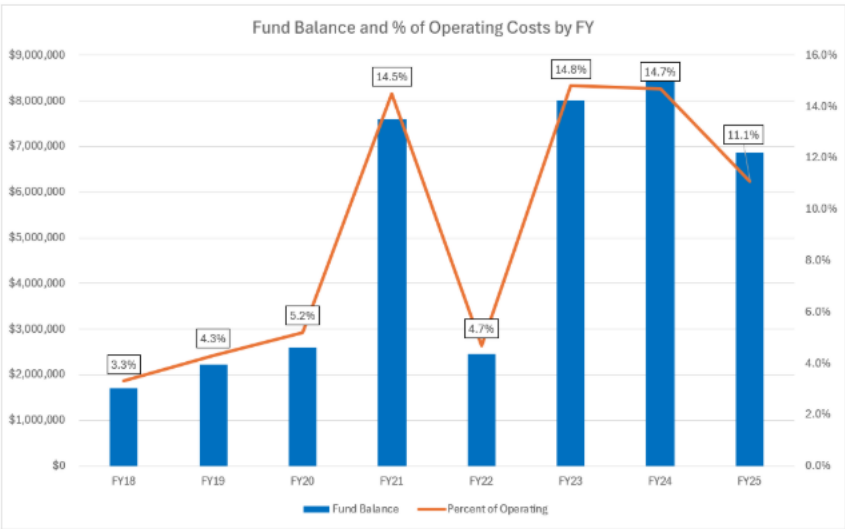
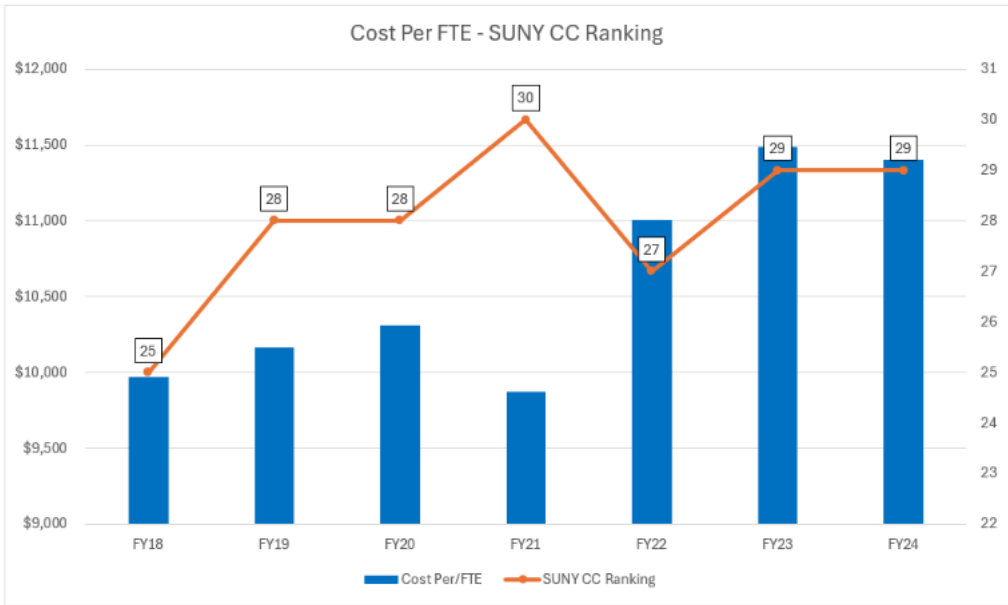
MVCC President's Report to College Senate

November 4, 2025

- **Strategic Planning** – Our current environment marked by accelerated changes in social, technological, educational, economic, and political trends and amplified by an ever-increasing presence of SUNY initiatives and influence increasingly make planning of any kind very challenging. I recently convened a meeting with my Cabinet, the Annual Planning Council, Hawkvision, and the College Senate Advisory to review and analyze some current constraints and issues with our current planning processes. I intend to further engage them in a Microsoft Teams group and will likely bring some revisions forward in the coming months.
- **Advocacy** – We are preparing for an interesting legislative session in Albany as the early indications are that the state will have a notable projected deficit next year, but everyone can see the potential for a massive deficit the following year if the Federal budget proceeds with reductions in Medicaid. Since New York is one of only two counties (North Carolina is the other) where the State mandates county support of Medicaid. North Carolina is comparatively low, since New York requires 50% match – equating to roughly \$86M in Oneida County (or 86% of the property tax levy) that helps comprise the 90% of the County's total expenditures going to State mandates. The County Executive's budget proposal was the most somber and constrained since the Great Recession 15 years ago. It seems the winds are beginning to blow.
- **Middle States Self-Study** – I am once again chairing a Middle States accreditation evaluation team at another college this year and recently completed my preliminary visit as team chair in preparation for the spring visit. I do this to not only serve our sector and support peer accreditation in this country but to also inform my thinking about our self-study and accreditation processes. As ever, I found the experience very useful and shared several insights and reflections with the leaders of our own self-study process that's currently underway. With more than 20% of our full-time employees carving out precious time from their schedules, I'm grateful for the level of participation across the college and, from what I've witnessed, the intentional level of care, responsibility, and engagement from those serving on self-study workgroups.

Key Performance Indicator (KPI) – MVCC has adequate resources to fulfill its mission

The primary measures for this KPI include budget to actual that shows we spend within 1-2% of our annual budget; we have the second lowest cost per/FTE; and our fund balance is at the higher-end of the Board policy threshold that calls for the fund balance to be between 5-15% of our operating budget. See the graphs below here for a sense of how these two measures are trending.



Vice Presidents' Senate Report

November 2025

- Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) is obligated under SUNY's Academic Momentum (AcMo) Campaign to actively develop, implement, and monitor a comprehensive institutional plan that advances student retention, completion, and equity outcomes. Specifically, MVCC must confirm or propose campus targets that align proportionally with SUNY's systemwide goals; establish an Academic Momentum Planning Team; and submit a presidentially endorsed action plan by January 15, 2026. This plan must articulate leadership commitment, integrate evidence-based strategies, and demonstrate how existing strengths will be leveraged while addressing gaps—particularly for Pell-eligible and other underserved populations. MVCC is also required to engage shared governance, participate in SUNY-provided technical assistance, submit disaggregated data to track outcomes, and treat AcMo as an institutional priority with senior leadership oversight, ensuring that the college's initiatives contribute measurably to SUNY's overall academic momentum and student success objectives. The proposed targets are outlined in the attached documents.
- MVCC Art Students were **featured on WKTV**
- The School of Art hosted their annual K-12 Partners Professional Development Day with 52 attendees.
- Student Leadership Development: The Student Leadership Academy is actively engaging students in weekly sessions that include field experiences, guest speakers, panel discussions, and guided reflections to deepen their understanding of leadership theory and practice. In tandem, the division's ongoing support of Student Congress has created space for meaningful conversations around student advocacy, free speech, role clarity, and effective communication.
- Student Safety & Communication: The monthly Bathroom Buzz newsletter has been reimagined to spotlight campus structures that promote safety and transparency. Recent editions have focused on the "Report It" system and Title IX/Title VI processes. Additional outreach—including presentations to students and employees—has centered on the evolving Care Team model. A survey will be distributed prior to December 1 to gather feedback from individuals who have used the Care Referral system.
- Hosting Statewide CSAO Convening: MVCC recently hosted the fall in-person meeting of the NYS Community College Association of Chief Student Affairs Officers. We extend our thanks to colleagues in Facilities, IT, Public Safety, Catering/American Dining, and the Division of Student Affairs—particularly Jim Maio, Tracy Coulson, and Amanda Roy-Small—for their contributions. Special appreciation to President VanWagoner for offering his time and insights during the convening's kick-off session on leading through several current "storms" in higher education. The 22

attendees from community colleges, along with several guests from SUNY Administration, expressed appreciation for the perspectives, practices, and encouragement he shared—highlighting the ways in which leaders can not only survive, but thrive during such challenging times.

- **Applied Technology Center** – Thank you to everyone for transitioning to our new parking reality. I know that it's not easy and that rain, snow, and ice will only make it harder. However, the addition of the new 62,000 square foot building mirroring Wilcox Hall, closing in the mall and providing incredible learning spaces for some of our fastest growing programs will transform the campus over the next 24 months. We have received the Building Permits from the State Codes Department and construction for both projects will be starting very soon.
- **Automatic Door Openers** - There has been a lot of talk from students about the auto door openers, we do have 45 of these on the Utica Campus which means there are two transmitters for each opener and one receiver. These items are all electronic devices and are checked on a regular basis but being electronic they can malfunction at any time even right after they are checked. The push buttons that operate the openings get highly abused by people kicking them, banging on them multiple times excessively which in turn damages both the interior and exterior components. They only need to be gently pressed to be activated.
- **IT Update** - Microsoft has officially ended support for Windows 10 so we are asking any employees who have not yet had their computer updated to submit a help desk ticket so we can assist with the upgrade and ensure continued security and compliance. We've also had a substantial increase in Phishing attacks so we've set hourly and daily limits on the number of emails that can be sent from student accounts (still very reasonable). Also, if you receive a questionable email that you think might be a Phish, please send all questionable emails to scam@mvcc.edu and MJ, Chuck, and Jason will receive it.

Respectfully submitted,

Karey Pine, Ed.D, Vice President for Student Affairs

Lew Kahler, Ed.D., Vice President for Learning and Academic Affairs

Randy VanWagoner, Ph.D., President and Interim VP for Administrative Services