

# MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

2:30pm WH 225

## Attendance

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### Present

E. Brindisi	T. Burke	E. Bush	K. Cordary	S. Crocker
H. Doty	A. Fried	S. Frisbee	R. Golden	C. Hendricks
J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski	T. Locke	S. McManus	K. McNamara
A. Miller	C. Miller	R. Miller	A. Nolan	Y. Riesbeck
B. Rogan	A. Roy–Small	S. Selden	D. Sonne	R. VanWagoner
J. Wilkie	C. Wilson	R. Wittenberg		

### Student Senators

A. Vazquez

### Absent/Excused

N. Evanoff	K. Hanna	S. McCall	M. McHarris	K. Montague
S. Silverman	D. Swiss	C. Van Namee	F. Vellone	J. Wilcox

## Call to Order

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

## Student Congress Report

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*A. Vazquez*

A. Vazquez announced that Sar Ni Thein will be the new Student Congress President, and elections for the vice-presidents and trustee will be held next week. Five interviews for the Program Board Director will be held next week as well. At the Executive Meeting, a new subcommittee for Advocacy was created.

## Old Business

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### FCCC Resolutions

*A. Miller*

### *Faculty Purview Over Curriculum & Academic Standards*

There was some discussion regarding the terminology of student life relating to education process. When the paper was originally written in the 1960s, “student life” related more to what we now refer to as “academic processes” than to what we know as “student life” now. The Senate voted to endorse the resolution. (A. Miller, D. Sonne) (27, 0, 0).

### *Academic Freedom and Legal Guidance for Faculty*

The DEI Committee wrote this resolution to support faculty who might face litigation for what they were required to teach due to general education DEISJ requirements. A. Miller (M. Kuczynski) motioned to endorse the resolution. The motion passed unanimously (27, 0, 0).

### **Advancing Shared Governance Excellence & Protecting Campus & Statewide Faculty Representation**

The Governance Committee wrote this resolution to share best practices that ensure faculty representation at all levels, related to the incident that occurred earlier this year. A. Miller made a motion to endorse the resolution, with a second from M. Kuczynski. The motion carried (27, 0, 0).

A. Miller commented that the resolutions will be forwarded from FCCC to the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees.

## **New Business**

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### **Title II & Digital Accessibility Conversation**

*C. Miller*

Due to the April deadline of the Title II mandate regarding accessibility of digital materials, C. Miller thought it prudent to discuss what the mandate requires.

N. Chrisman shared that B. Rogan is the Electronic Information Technology (EIT) Officer on Campus, and that J. Ireland is working on the **Center for Inclusive Teaching Excellence (CITE) website** to ensure ADA compliance on all documents. The Title II updates are effective April 24, 2026, and will impact everybody, not just faculty. If reported to be in violation of Title II, the College could be sued. Any documents that are posted electronically must be ADA compliant. This includes:

- providing alt text for images
- hyperlinking text rather than typing URLs
- providing closed captions or transcripts for all videos
- ensuring third party content is also compliant (can be done by asking for a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template, or VPAT)
- group projects submitted between students and electronic feedback given by instructors must also be ADA compliant

N. Chrisman, J. Ireland, B. Rogan, and the Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR) are working to create resources, including templates, and DEQUE University offers **online training** for all Microsoft products through SUNY. T. Carter and N. Chrisman will also have a presentation at January Institute on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00–noon, as well as a week-long training during Spring Break. Title II Tuesday emails will also be sent. Adjuncts are included in all emails from N. Chrisman.

Senators are encouraged to discuss the Title II requirement with constituents.

## **Standing Reports**

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### **Chair Report**

*C. Miller*

C. Miller shared remarks in memory of D. Willner, former MVCC math teacher and administrator, as well as a runner, mentor, woodworker, and gardener, who passed on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to her usual meetings, C. Miller and members from the Senate Advisory will hold a session during January Institute on Senate Mentorship. Lastly, C. Miller shared some reflections on the semester, and thanked Senators for their engagement this semester.

### **President's Report**

*R. VanWagoner*

R. VanWagoner shared that a month ago the Senate Advisory, Hawk Vision, Annual Planning Council, and Cabinet met in ACC to discuss the annual planning process. Recently there have been moments that have significantly impacted the College's work that were not part of the Strategic Plan, such as the COVID Pandemic and Guided Pathways. The planning process has therefore been revamped into Annual Planning Pillars that stem from the budget. At the meeting, the good and the bad of the exist process was discussed, and he would like to bring this discussion to the Senate at the February meeting, with final feedback shared in March.

The committee is nearing the end of its search for the new vice president of administrative services, and the position for the Director of Facilities has been posted. The Dental Hygiene and new Science Center are on schedule.

### **Vice Presidents' Report**

*L. Kahler, K. Pine, R. VanWagoner*

In response to the attached report:

- Senators congratulated A. Roy–Small for being honored as an Outstanding Educator in the Mohawk Valley
- E. Brindisi asked if faculty were permitted to hold online classes if the College closes due to inclement weather. R. VanWagoner will double-check with L. Kahler, but if the College is closed then no.
- A. Fried commented that he has noticed an increase in vehicles being driven through the quad and on the sidewalk close to the construction site. He suggested blocking off the roads on either side of Payne Hall.

### **SUNY Transfer Liaison Report**

*H. Doty*

H. Doty commented that SUNY Transfer paths are being resurrected. Some of ours were not up to date, so she has asked deans to update them. In addition to being listed on the SUNY website, SUNY Transfer pathways will also be listed in the College Catalogue next year.

Recently, SUNY published a SUNY Transfer Student Bill of Rights, which articulates everything done for transfer students. H. Doty has included a link to the website on two of our transfer pages to make it easier for students to find.

SUNY has also requested that our website include a transfer credit appeal process.

## FCCC Report

*A. Miller*

Updates from SUNY and NCC students pertaining to the situation regarding the FCCC vice president can be found on the **Senate Teams page**.

A. Miller shared that the SUNY Academic Momentum Fellows application is due December 15<sup>th</sup>. She also shared a **flyer** titled “Know Your Rights” from the New York State Department to be shared with immigrants.

Lastly, some resolutions from FCCC that we can expect to see in February include:

- Basic Needs Access Initiatives – funding for food pantries, mental health, etc.
- State Budget Advocacy – request to invest in SUNY Reconnect, identifying some improvements that could be done, and the usual request for additional funding

## Faculty Caucus Report

*A. Fried*

The Faculty Caucus will meet on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the usual time and location.

## Questions and Open Forum

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There was some discussion in the Open Forum regarding SUNY funding. R. VanWagoner shared that in recent years, the base aid (“funding floor”) has come with strings attached that make it seem more like a grant than funding. Counties give \$100 million more to community colleges than the state does, so this year trustees are lobbying for the base aid to come without strings attached.

R. Miller shared that additional support to help unload goods in C3 from 11:00-noon on Mondays would be appreciated, since facilities is understaffed then.

## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

**Next Senate Meeting:** Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30PM via Teams

**Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due:** Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Next Senate Advisory Meeting:** Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski

# Vice Presidents' Senate Report

November 2025

- **Department of Public Safety Consideration:** DPS is exploring the addition of body cameras for our Public Safety officers. Chief Coromato is working to set up a meeting, with Student Congress, college senate and will follow up with Cabinet and the Board of Trustees when we have something.
- **Windows 10 End of Support:** Microsoft has officially ended support for Windows 10. Any employees who have not yet had their computer updated have been asked to submit a help desk ticket so IT can assist with the upgrade and ensure continued security and compliance.
- **Report Phishing, Scams, or Anything That Looks Suspicious:** IT has created an email address to report any suspicious emails. Staff are asked to send all questionable emails to [scam@mvcc.edu](mailto:scam@mvcc.edu) and MJ, Chuck, and Jason will receive it. This helps IT to respond to potential security threats quicker than emailing one of them directly.
- **Addressing Food Insecurity & Emergency Aid:** Our College Community Connection (C3) program will benefit from two new funding sources aimed at strengthening our ability to support students experiencing food insecurity and financial hardship:
  - MVCC will receive \$15,000 in what has been labeled as annually recurring funding through SUNY and Governor Hochul's initiative to address food insecurity at community colleges in light of the ongoing federal shutdown and SNAP instability.
  - Additionally, MVCC has been selected as one of 10 SUNY community colleges to participate in a Gates Foundation-funded initiative received by SUNY and focused on enhancing emergency aid operations. MVCC will receive \$20,000 over two years, participate in a Community of Practice, and contribute to the development of SUNY-wide best practices.
- **Rising Care Team Activity & Student Support Needs:** The campus Care Team is responding to a significant increase in referrals. This fall alone, the team has received 35 cases, compared to 43 total for all of last year. Those who have referred individuals should expect to receive an evaluation to help the Care Team to understand communication strengths and gaps as we continue to refine our tools and operation.
- **October Activities & Student Engagement Highlights:** October was filled with vibrant engagement across both campuses:
  - International Student Thanksgiving Dinner welcomed students from MVCC and neighboring colleges to celebrate traditions, food, and karaoke.
  - Open House set a new record with over 700 attendees, including prospective students and their supporters.
  - The Rome Campus hosted over 800 guests for its annual Trick-or-Treat Street, offered themed educational tabling around Breast Cancer Awareness, and participated in the Diverse Abilities Job Fair.
  - The Student Leadership Academy hosted speakers and off-campus trips with community leaders.
  - Other events included comedy and musical entertainment, a send-off celebration for our men's and women's soccer teams, and residence hall checkpoint conversations that reached 95.5% of our on-campus residents.

- **One additional note! Celebrating Colleague Excellence:** Congratulations to Amanda Roy-Small, a member of the Student Affairs Division and Senate Advisory Committee, who was honored on November 20, 2025 as an Outstanding Educator in the Mohawk Valley. Her recognition is certainly well-earned and deserved and we celebrate her!
- MVCC hosted the CNY Hackathon learning community in Wilcox Hall on Friday and Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Over eighty students from MVCC, SUNY Poly, Utica University, Syracuse University, University at Albany, Siena College, and Cornell University attended the event which is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year! The CNY Hackathon is a completely volunteer event and over twenty former student participants returned to MVCC to serve on the “Red Team” as student participants on the “Blue Teams” worked together and learned how to defend their systems from the Red Team’s simulated attacks.
- MVCC’s Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) hosted the 2nd annual Girl Scouts Veni, Vidi, Vici event on November 8, 2025. 370 Girl Scouts and Chaperones participated, which is 50 more than last year, in an overnight experience hosted on our campus. MVCC’s WISE group and student volunteers organized and delivered eight unique and engaging hands-on science experiences over the course of three hours and were thrilled with the level of excitement and engagement from the Girl Scouts. The event was so successful that planning is underway for a 2026 event, and MVCC’s Facilities and Operations, Dining Services, Athletics, Public Safety, and Law Enforcement Program staff were critical to its success. WISE is also seeking participation from a wider segment of the college, so if you would like to offer engaging hands-on sessions next year, please contact amiller@mvcc.edu.
- MVCC’s AcMo Team continues their work. The first deliverable is to highlight two priority areas and accompanying strategies (existing, new, or evolving) to address these areas and prepare a two-paragraph narrative to speak to these ahead of the AcMo Planning Summit in December. The Team has identified the two areas they will start with, and are working with IR on identifying and gathering data to inform their work in these areas.
  - **Priority Area 1: Fall-to-Fall Retention**  
Improving fall-to-fall retention for first time, full time students requires a more proactive and coordinated approach to identifying student challenges early and ensuring their course pathways support long-term success. MVCC can strengthen retention by expanding the use of the early alert system in ADVISE, capturing first-weeks attendance patterns, academic performance signals, and faculty concerns to ensure Student Support Advisors can intervene quickly when students begin to disengage. At the same time, reviewing and improving course sequencing, particularly the removal of toxic course combinations and the creation of complementary course groupings, will help students progress through foundational material in a more structured, manageable way. Together, these efforts create a smoother academic experience that reduces overwhelm, supports early success, and ultimately lowers the likelihood of stop-out.
  - **Priority Area 2: First-Year Students Completing 30+ Credits**  
To increase the number of students completing 30 or more credits in their first year, MVCC is examining the viability of opportunities to restructure summer offerings as well as A-Term, B-Term models, and alternative models within programs to better align with historical student success patterns. These

adjustments can create more flexible and accessible pathways for students to build credit momentum, especially for those who cannot consistently enroll in 15 credits during fall and spring. Additionally, refining the intake survey to better understand students' life circumstances will allow advising teams to identify students who are well-positioned for full-time enrollment and encourage them into 15+ credit schedules. These efforts collectively support stronger credit accumulation and set a foundation for timely program progression.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

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