

# MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

2:30pm WH 225

## Attendance

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### Present

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

### Student Senators

P. Moe                      S. Thein

### Absent/Excused

K. Cordary	M. McHarris	K. Montague	C. VanNamee
K. Hanna	R. Miller	A. Nolan	

## Call to Order

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

## Approval of Senate Minutes

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### November Minutes

D. Sonne asked if next-steps had been determined at the meeting regarding the Tabling conversation, but nothing definite had been decided. S. Crocker (J. Wilkie) moved to approve the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes and the motion passed (27, 0, 1).

### December Minutes

R. Golden (D. Sonne) moved to approve the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 minutes and the motion passed (26, 0, 2).

## Student Congress Report

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*S. Thein*

S. Thein is the new president of Student Congress and P. Moe is the new treasurer. S. Thein shared a summary of items from the Fall semester along with upcoming goals. These include:

- In collaboration with the Photography Club, the photographs in the Student Congress Hallway will be updated. The hallway will be renamed to Sandy's Road in commemoration of S. Cummings, and a ceremony will be held.
- B. Coromato was invited to Student Congress to discuss a proposal that campus safety officers wear body cameras. The proposal has student support, and B. Coromato is searching for grants to fund the purchase of the body cameras.
  - S. Thein then made a motion for the Senate to endorse a policy for campus safety officers to wear body cameras (S. Crocker second). The motion passed unanimously (29, 0, 0).
- A Halal Fridge is planned for C3, with an intent for implementation before Ramadan.
- Student Congress will collaborate with the Film Club to create a Title IX Video.
- There will be a competition for a new design for the Student Congress door.
- Although C3 and the Wellness Center provide a variety of health supplies, students sometimes feel reluctant to ask for them due to the personal nature of such items (pregnancy tests, tampons, Benadryl, etc.) As a result, Student Congress is investigating the possibility of a vending machine to provide these items. The items would be free to students and accessible via the use of their student card.

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## **New Business**

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### **Diversity Committee Transition to CDO Advisory Group**

*T. Marshall*

Established in 2017, the Diversity Council became the Diversity Committee last year. Upon reflection, the Committee has realized that much of its work overlaps with the work T. Marshall does in his role as Chief Diversity Officer. As a result, T. Marshall recommends that the committee shift to an ad hoc advisory committee rather than a standing committee. Some of the accomplishments of the Diversity Council included the Equity Statement, Racism Statement, and Inclusivity Statement. There are also DEI resources on the College website, and T. Marshall assured the Senate that the work of the council will not cease, but rather continue in a different way. It is unknown at this time whether the ad hoc advisory committee will remain a formal Senate body or not.

### **Academic Momentum Update**

*A. Palmer*

A. Palmer shared a brief history of Academic Momentum (ACMO), including the metrics provided by SUNY for improvement. Although the College will submit its academic plan this week, the ACMO team is still seeking feedback on how to improve student metrics. The full details of the recommendations are available on the **Senate Teams page**. The ACMO Team met with Faculty Caucus, and in order to ensure accurate data, the team

has representatives from Learning and Academic Affairs, Student Services, and other areas of the College.

A. Palmer shared that key areas where SUNY is seeking improvement from community colleges (based on data SUNY collected) include: student completion of gateway math and English courses in their first year; student completion of 30 credits in their first year; on-time and extended graduation rates; fall-to-fall retention; universal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for students. Although MVCC performs above the threshold for several metrics, we must continue to apply best practices to improve these metrics for students. SUNY has suggested the College focus on first time, full-time students. One result of this cohort is that dual credit students are not part of the ACMO analysis once they come to MVCC.

A. Palmer shared some challenges and recommendations identified by the ACMO Team:

- **Challenges**

- late registration negatively impacts student performance
- some students are unable to succeed in later or difficult courses due to poor course sequencing
- many students are unable to take 15 credits per semester due to external obligations (several jobs, families, etc.)
- financial instability (high Pell eligibility) is a large contributing factor for our students
- students become disengaged before the College has an opportunity to know they are struggling, and by the time members of the College who could help area ware of it, the students have withdrawn or left college
- the current semester length and some modalities are not ideal for all students

- **Recommendations**

- early identification and proactive intervention through the use of Ellucian Advise, including flagging attendance early (weeks 1-2)
- respond to student needs so they have support on campus before they get to the classroom and provide supplemental advising for Pell-eligible students and students on academic intervention
- make a dashboard available to students, deans, and faculty so we know ahead of time what difficulties students are facing
- improve gateway course success
  - A sufficient number of sections are offered, yet students aren't being scheduled and completing these courses on time
  - Students should complete these courses in their first year for a solid foundation, especially for students in STEM Transfer (STTR) and STEM Career (STCR).
  - Tutors will be embedded in gateway courses with the lowest success rates in the Integrated Learning Support (ILS) sections.

- A review of the ILS thresholds and schedules will be conducted to better align supports with demonstrated student need.
- expand summer offerings to allow for flexible pathways and credit recovery, as well as promote summer enrollment to students who reduce their credit loads during the regular semesters
- review the lengths of summer courses to see when students are being most successful
- expand prior learning opportunities
- better use Ad Astra to improve scheduling
- FAFSA

Although SUNY has set ambitious metrics, the goal is not to lower academic standards. Instead, A. Palmer asserted that the goal is to raise our standards and work collaboratively across all offices in order to support and “do right by” our students.

As they wait for feedback from SUNY on the ACMO plan, the Team will set up the implementation phase, including workgroups with faculty representation. The student cohort will begin in Fall 2026, and the Team is seeking input on what additional data they need, and how to best approach the plan in the Fall.

A robust conversation followed. Comments from Senators include:

- As we increase section offerings, make sure expectations and standards are clearly communicated to adjuncts to ensure they are aligned with the rest of the program.
- This sounds like Guided Pathways with a new name.
- There is a concern that embedded tutoring hasn't worked for some faculty in the past, while for others it took several semesters before positive results of embedded tutoring were seen.
- Financial Aid doesn't always cover summer courses. A. Palmer shared that there are some opportunities for Financial Aid, though he was uncertain of specifics.
- There are several compounding factors in this initiative. How do we address these factors in combination? Radical ideas are needed.
- A review of student advising to give students more direct contact with program and faculty advisors could be beneficial.
- There are program-specific reasons students don't succeed, such as not having proper supplies. The book advantage pack does not include supplies (art kits, external hard drives, etc.) Some programs have addressed this by purchasing supplies in bulk to provide to students, and then charging a fee to students once classes begin. A program to loan items to students was also suggested as a potential solution.

Any other questions or suggestions should be forwarded to [apalmer@mvcc.edu](mailto:apalmer@mvcc.edu) .

## Standing Reports

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### Chair Report

*C. Miller*

C. Miller welcomed new senators and the new Student Congress officers. She shared a summary of the FCCC Winter Meeting, which included: conversations about the freedom of speech and academic freedom; ongoing AI challenges and opportunities; the decision-making purview of faculty and administration; support for campus governance leaders (CGLs) and governance. She also provided an update on the Mentorship Program for new senators. A session was held on January 16<sup>th</sup> to address essential questions from new senators. Senate mentors include A. Miller, C. VanNamee, and S. McManus.

### President's Report

*R. VanWagoner*

R. VanWagoner shared his excitement regarding the ACMO conversation before moving on to his report. He mentioned the KPI narrative and highlighted the proposed change to the College's planning process. His goal is to address questions today and for senators to bring the plan to their constituents before looking for an endorsement next month.

D. Sonne asked about the downward trend in early momentum indicators and upward trend in 2–3 year graduation rates. R. VanWagoner commented that there has been a steep increase in parttime students, and he will discuss cohort nuance with A. Nolan. He will also find out more about the Onramp proposal this afternoon.

R. VanWagoner thanked Senators for their consideration on the changes to the planning process, expressing excitement to try something new.

### Vice Presidents' Report

*L. Kahler, M. Parry, K. Pine*

In response to the attached report, the following questions and concerns were raised:

- D. Sonne gave a shoutout to the Testing Center and then inquired if there had been any discussion about increasing the hours to better meet the needs of evening classes. K. Pine responded in the affirmative, and that the diversity of accommodations and its impact on the classroom experience is the spotlight of the Student Affairs report to the Board of Trustees this month. There is not a quick solution, but current issues are being managed on a case-by-case basis while information is being collected and long-term solutions investigated.
- S. Crocker asked about the status of the copier in the Print Shop, which had been out of order. It has been repaired. This led to a conversation about a digital queue for faculty to be able to know the status of their print requests. S. McCall

suggested a dynamic form could be created. Faculty would need to use the form in order for this to work, and would no longer be able to send their requests via email. M. Parry will follow-up with J. Salsberg.

- S. Crocker has had difficulty scheduling meetings for CWCC – a committee with over 20 members – due to the lack of meeting spaces that are large enough to accommodate the membership. Even though the meetings are scheduled a year in advance, the committee is sometimes bumped from their scheduled room by groups of only 3-4 people. She suggested there be a minimum attendee requirement when reserving large meeting rooms. C. Miller will meet with R. VanWagoner to see what can be done.
- S. Crocker also expressed a concern about accessible parking on campus, and asked if the Admin Lot could be used for those with a mobility issue. A. Miller also expressed a concern that snowbanks are proving a barrier to accessible parking behind the S&T building. M. Parry will discuss these concerns with R. VanWagoner.
- S. McCall requested that the emails with student accommodations include course CRNs to help faculty who teach multiple sections of the same course identify students. A. Miller also requested that whether the student was enrolled in a lecture or lab section would also be beneficial.

### **SUNY Transfer Liaison Report**

*H. Doty*

H. Doty commented that there will be monthly SUNY Transfer Liaison “Fireside Chats” at lunch time, though nothing new was shared at the first chat. H. Doty also had to send some language to SUNY regarding the College’s policy regarding a second review for transfer credit evaluation.

### **FCCC Report**

*A. Miller*

A. Miller remarked that the “Fireside Chats” are a result of conversations between the FCCC President and SUNY Chancellor as a way of holding more informal conversations. She also commented that an **update from the FCCC President** is available on Teams.

A. Miller has served as FCCC Representative for seven years and will not rerun for the position at the end of her term this year. She shared the following FCCC delegate responsibilities:

- participate in Senate Advisory
- represent MVCC at the Fall & Spring Plenaries (3 days each) and Summer & Winter committee meetings (1 day each, with the winter meeting held virtually)
- brief presentation to the MVCC Board of Trustees after each Plenary
- report at Senate
- participate in Faculty Caucus

A. Miller encouraged all those who are interested to nominate themselves during the election process. S. Frisbee shared that he is in the process of identifying which positions have terms are expiring, and that the call for nominees will be forthcoming in March. Elections will be held in early April.

### **Faculty Caucus Report**

*A. Fried*

The next meeting of the Faculty Caucus will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> in PH 300 at 2:30pm. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, except for March (due to Spring Break). The March meeting will be held on the fourth Tuesday.

A. Fried also commented that the minutes for Faculty Caucus will now include a list of faculty senators who are absent from the meeting.

### **Questions and Open Forum**

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E. Bush asked for clarification regarding orders from the Print Shop. They are now being filled, although slowly due to the backlog. M. Parry stated that the form can be updated to allow multiple files to be attached to one form, as well as create an easy way for J. Salsberg to communicate when jobs are completed.

### **Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM.

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

**Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due:** Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Next Senate Advisory Meeting:** Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski

# President's Senate Report

February 2026

## Changes to the Planning Process at the College

Over the past several years, Mohawk Valley Community College has taken bold steps to evolve its strategic planning—from rigid multi-year plans to a more responsive, pillar-based annual process. This shift has helped us be more flexible and opportunistic with our planning efforts, yet, as recent conversations across Cabinet, the Annual Planning Council (APC), Hawkvision, and the College Senate Advisory have confirmed, there is still work to be done to enhance coherence, clarity, and collective ownership.

**Proposed Revisions:** This revised planning framework proposes that the KPIs and associated metrics be directly linked to the five strategic pillars to strengthen the on-going measurement function. Cabinet would work collaboratively with their divisions to establish annual institutional priorities that directly inform the Annual Plan and budget development. This adjustment would improve alignment between top-level strategy and divisional work while providing earlier clarity on direction. I recognize that this would position Cabinet to formally establish the Annual Plan priorities, but I think it would be more effective than what the APC function and member experience has been for the past several years.

To better integrate planning, assessment, and institutional effectiveness the Annual Planning Council would be dissolved, with its monitoring function transferred to the Institutional Effectiveness Council. In addition, Hawkvision would shift to a three-year cycle, making one strategic recommendation every three years and staying with it through early implementation—while continuing to lead its essential role in environmental scanning and future-focused dialogue. These refinements aim to simplify our planning infrastructure, clarify roles and timing, and create stronger crosswalks with budgeting, POARs, individual goalsetting, and strategic execution.

The current model has fostered strategic responsiveness but created ongoing challenges including disconnected timelines, unclear roles, ambiguous direction for individual goalsetting, and limited visibility into how promising ideas advance. By refining the process now—with clarity and shared intent, my hope is to create a planning model that is more agile, relevant, and results-focused without compromising input.

This proposal is a working draft. Your feedback is essential. What excites you about this direction? What might need to be reconsidered? How can we evolve this process in ways that strengthen—not sidestep—shared governance? My goal is to collect Senate feedback at the March meeting and roll out the revised process in the upcoming cycle for the 2026–27 Annual Plan presented to the Board of Trustees with the proposed budget at their May, 2026 Board meeting. With your input, we can ensure that our planning structures remain aligned with our mission, responsive to change, and designed to elevate the work happening across every part of MVCC.

## Key Performance Indicator: “MVCC is Committed to Student Success”

Student success is the core of MVCC's mission. We measure student success at course, program, and institutional levels. For the purposes of a Key Performance Indicator (KPI), MVCC measures student success by:

- **Graduation rates:** 100%, 150% and 200% of program time (IPEDS): The graduation rate for students completing their degree in 100% of program time (1 year for certificates, 2 years for associate degrees) increased to 31% for the 2023 cohort, representing a 1% increase over the prior year and a 158% increase compared to 2011. The 150% graduation rate increased from 38% to 39%, marking an all-time high for MVCC. Historically, an additional 3–5% of students complete their credential within 200% of program time (2 years for certificates, 4 years for associate degrees). This extended-time completion rate has increased by approximately 1% in each of the last two cohort years, indicating continued long-term gains in degree completion. Graduation rates at both 100% and 150% of program time have generally trended upward across all major race/ethnicity groups, including White, Black/African American, Hispanic, and Asian students. While year-to-year variation exists, no single group experienced sustained declines over the five-year trend window, suggesting institution-wide improvement rather than gains isolated to a single population.
- **Average credit hours at graduation (Internal Data):** The average credits at graduation had remained relatively steady over the prior few years for both Certificates (33 credits) and associate degrees (63 credits). We have seen a significant increase in average credit at graduation in 2024-25, with Certificates averaging 54.91 credits, and associate degrees averaging 77.08 credits. The increase in student credit accumulation is primarily driven by three programmatic shifts: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students transitioning into Business programs, Health Sciences students moving into designated programs (ex: Nursing) and General Studies students entering discipline-specific programs. Additional gains were observed among rematriculated students in the Oneonta Education program. These trends reflect the impact of recent program redesigns, clearer academic pathways, and improved program accessibility at MVCC.
- **Persistence momentum fall-spring/ fall-fall (Internal Data):** The Fall to next term persistence rate has increased steadily over time, rising from 78.3% to 82.3% over the past five years. For the most recent cohort (Fall 2024), persistence rates among the three largest race/ethnicity groups (White, Black, and Hispanic students) varied (White 83.9%, Black 77.4%, Hispanic/Latino 75.3%). In addition, first-year credit success (earning 12 or more credits) increased 3.8 percentage points, from 67.7% to 71.5% over the prior year. Disaggregated results indicate that first-year credit success is highest among Asian students (77.6%) and White students (69.9%), with lower rates for Hispanic (54.6%) and Black (47.6%) students. While overall outcomes have improved, these gaps point to a continued need for targeted early academic support and equity-focused interventions in the first year.

- **Early momentum indicators 15/semester & 30 annually in 1st year (Internal Data):** Early credit momentum declined slightly in the most recent year, with decreases of 0.4% in the first semester, 1.4% in the second semester, and 0.9% in first-year 30-credit completion. Although modest, these declines continue a three-year downward trend, indicating a need to strengthen course scheduling, credit load planning, and targeted first-year advising.
- **Gateway momentum - college level math/English in first year (Internal Data):** Gateway course completion continues to improve, with first-year pass rates reaching five-year highs in both college-level English (37.0%, up 0.4%) and math (35.7%, up 3.1%). These gains reflect meaningful progress in early academic preparedness, particularly in math, a longstanding barrier to completion.
- **Program credit momentum-9 program credits in the first year (Internal Data):** Program credit momentum has steadily improved across cohorts, increasing from 68% in Fall 2023 to 76% in Fall 2024, and further to 87% for Fall 2025.

\*IPEDS cohort definition first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students

# Vice Presidents' Senate Report

February 2026

## Vice Presidents' Senate Report

January 2026

### Care Team:

- Evaluation prepared to send to those who made referrals to the Care Team in fall 2025. Part of on-going feedback and support.
- Care and Wellbeing Coordinator hired: New role established to manage student referrals through the Care Team and provide individualized, case management-based follow-up. Focus on connecting students with campus resources, sustainable coping strategies, and habits that support academic and personal success.
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program launched: 8-hour, evidence-based training began in August 2025. To date, 64 faculty, staff, and student leaders trained; 6 certified trainers facilitate ongoing sessions. Fifth training underway during January institute; additional sessions planned for spring. County grant supports increased MHFA visibility through incentives, merchandise, and campus tabling. Trained responders identified by orange MHFA shirts. Participant feedback is universally positive; MHFA recognized as cornerstone for early intervention, campus safety, and wellbeing culture.

### Accessibility and Accommodations

- Student Accessibility accommodations rising: 383 active accommodation plans in Fall 2025, up 16% from 331 in Fall 2024. 337 students permitted direct communication of accommodations to faculty, streamlining implementation. 141 students disclosed multiple disabilities, highlighting need for individualized and layered supports.
- Alternative testing arrangements: Notable increase in extended time and reduced-distraction environments, attributed to revamped coordination (kudos to Nikki Benton). Students authorizing info sharing are included in reports accessed by Testing Center, which proactively assists with logistics. Result: more consistent use of supports and improved experience for students and faculty.

### Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) congratulations – one more time!

- Team received Wings of the Hawk award for outstanding service and student outcomes. Supported 68 students this fall, matching last year's participation and, in some areas, expanding services amid staffing and leadership transitions. EOP students achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.77—the program's highest in several years—reflecting focused academic skill-building and tailored advising.

### From Institutional Research

- The Employee Leadership and Teamwork Pulse Survey is scheduled for release on March 1. Efforts are underway to drive participation and achieve the highest response rates possible.

- Web content owners across the College will be asked to review their webpages to ensure compliance with Title II accessibility standards ahead of the April 26, 2026 federal deadline. This work also supports expectations tied to the upcoming MSCHE self-study.
- All required webpage reviews must be completed by February 27.
- Communications to content owners will be sent out by Suada, and instructions—including specific review actions—have already been prepared.

#### **From the Business Office**

- W-2 forms will be distributed next week, with electronic recipients receiving access as soon as files become available.
- 1099 forms will be distributed at the end of the month.

#### **From Public Safety**

- As the semester begins and campus traffic increases, please use the alternate parking lots such as Tilden Ave. near Wilcox Hall and Jorgensen, behind Science & Technology, and the overflow lot located between the Academic Building and Columbus School. Please refrain from parking in the Admin lot unless you have been granted prior approval. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

#### **From Information Technology**

- A quick reminder to send any suspicious email to [scam@mvcc.edu](mailto:scam@mvcc.edu).
- The Information Technology helpdesk is available in Utica until 7pm Monday through Thursday.
- The fourteen student loaner laptops purchased through the funds raised by Institutional Advancement have been added to the program.

#### **From ASC**

- The Hawk's Nest dining hall remodel has been completed. Come check it out!
- Faculty and staff can save on meals with two meal plan options, available at the ASC office or online: <https://www.mvcc.edu/asc/> (see Employee meal plan link). Pay with cash, credit, or payroll deduction. Plans are non-refundable and valid until you leave the college.
- 20 meals: \$140
- 40 meals: \$240

#### **College in Prison Program**

- As part of our ongoing commitment to expanding educational access and degree completion pathways for incarcerated students, the college has successfully acquired 13 new computers through the SUNY Office of Higher Education in Prison Equity Fund. This grant-funded purchase marks a significant milestone in a two-year effort to enhance academic offerings at the Marcy Correctional Facility.

#### **SUNY Academic Momentum**

- The MVCC Momentum Team continues their work. They recently met with Faculty Caucus to discuss recommendations and receive feedback. A summary report from the team on the work thus far is attached. Questions for the team can be directed to Adam Palmer who chairs the group at [apalmer@mvcc.edu](mailto:apalmer@mvcc.edu).