

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

2:30pm Teams

Attendance

Present

E. Brindisi	N. Evanoff	T. Locke	C. Miller	C. Van Namee
T. Burke	S. Frisbee	S. McCall	S. Miller	R. VanWagoner
E. Bush	K. Hanna	S. McGovern	B. Rogan	J. Wilkie
K. Cordary	C. Hendricks	S. McManus	S. Selden	C. Wilson
S. Crocker	J. Ireland	K. McNamara	D. Sonne	R. Wittenberg
H. Doty	M. Kuczynski	A. Miller	D. Swiss	

Student Senators

P. Moe	J. Rodriguez	S. Thein
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Absent/Excused

A. Fried	M. McHarris	K. Montague	A. Roy–Small	F. Vellone
R. Golden	R. Miller	A. Nolan		

Call to Order

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM.

Student Congress Report

S. Thein

S. Thein reported that she attended the SUNY Student Assembly Advocacy Day in February where temperature-controlled food pantries, prison programs, capital funding, and strengthening affordability programs such as EOP were discussed. S. Thein also updated the Senate on the status of the ACC hallway (to be painted over spring break) and plans in the future to collaborate earlier with C3 to provide an accessible halal refrigerator during Ramadan.

Additionally the Spiritual room has been moved to a larger room (ACC 223) and additional supplies (including prayer rugs, Bibles, Qurans) will be purchased.

The size and quality of classroom desks were discussed and the QR code to the right can be used for students to provide feedback. Student Congress has also discussed the roadways and parking lots on campus with Chief Coromato to address a run-over stop sign, fixing potholes, and adding speed bumps or a crosswalk by the ST building.



Lastly, MVCC and SUNY Poly have collaborated to host a Professional Day for student government representatives from MVCC, SUNY Poly, Herkimer College, and Utica University. The event will be held on March 27 from 2:00–5:00pm.

Heart & Pride of Hawk

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner presented the Pride of the Hawk award to Bella Theall for her work in events, campus enrichment, community engagement, and innovative approaches. He presented the Heart of the Hawk award to George Searles for his fifty years of excellence at the College and his work in the School of Humanities.

Approval of Senate Minutes

February Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were unanimously approved (S. Crocker, D. Sonne) (28, 0, 0).

New Business

Updates from the General Education Committee

A. Lewis

The following classes have been approved to meet the Civic Discourse Gen Ed standard: AN 102, BM 101, BM 115, CI 104, EN 150, PY 101, and SO 101. Every AS, AAS, and AA degree now has the Civic Discourse requirement satisfied and the committee is working to ensure the requirement is met in all AOS degrees by the end of March. The Quick Reference Guide has been edited to remove courses that haven't run in over a decade, and the Guide will have a different layout on the website in the future to ensure Title II compliance. Though the new layout will not be print-friendly, a printable PDF can be shared.

Campus Tabling Standards

K. Pine

K. Pine has been working with Faculty Caucus, Student Congress, Cabinet, and Events & Facilities to review the College's policy and its practices with regards to tabling on campus. As a **limited public forum** the College can limit the time, place, and manner of tabling events but not the content. The current model of approval for these events is based on informal sponsorships, which has put employees and students at risk and is no longer sustainable. As a result the College will move to a centralized institutional review process with uniform standards for time, place, and manner; designated locations for tabling; standardized communication of tabling events; and uniform limits on frequency and daily capacity for all groups.

K. Pine responded to comments, questions, and concerns from Senators, addressing topics including appropriate locations for tabling (ACC Commons, AB Lobby), methods of communication regarding tabling events (emails and door signage), and hate speech in the context of freedom of speech.

Harnessing Data for Student Success and Institutional Excellence

A. Smajic

A. Smajic updated senators on how data will be used to provide supports for students and inform decision-making at the College in the future. **The report** is based on the work done last year by Hawk Vision and the relaunch of the Strategic Enrollment Management Council.

Data is currently fragmented across various areas of campus, which has made it difficult for all departments to be equally informed and for the data to be evaluated properly. The convergence of demographic shifts, performance-based funding, current levels of satisfaction and persistence, and the risks of inaction have led to the need to act now. Changes must be made to encourage retention gains, provide early support interventions, and allot the budget accordingly. The College has collaborated with Hamilton College to learn more about how to better curate our data and provide real-time feedback.

The plan is for data to be used for timely, holistic insight into attendance, coursework, and support touchpoints to enable faculty, advisors, and students to act before momentum is lost. Consolidated academic, engagement, and operational data will support real-time decisions, predictive analytics, and continuous improvement.

A. Smajic responded to questions and comments from senators regarding the budget for a data lakehouse or warehouse (at least \$200 thousand), SUNY Momentum, attendance reporting, the means of data collection and faculty workflow, learning from our experience with Starfish, and balancing academic freedom with the use of data dashboards.

R. VanWagoner will likely bring the topic of data governance to the Senate within the next year with the plan to develop a Board policy on data governance and related procedures.

Standing Reports

Chair Report

C. Miller

C. Miller welcomed J. Rodriguez, a new student senator. The FCCC Plenary will be held at the end of the month, and she will share updates with the Senate at the April meeting. The Senate Elections will take place in early/mid-April, with elections for Senate chair, vice-chair, and senate advisory to be held during the special May meeting.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner began by responding to public concerns regarding the closure of the Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) program. The program was created in 2005 at the request of the Oneida County legislature and R. VanWagoner commended faculty for creating a highly successful program with a solid reputation that has attracted many employers. Unfortunately, the County will terminate the lease with the hangar as of December 31, 2026 due to changes in the County's economic focus and changes at the Griffiss business park in order to accommodate the new Chobani factory. The College will have nowhere to house the program without the hangar, and cannot financially support the program without the County's support. As a result, the College

will refocus its resources on the dental hygiene program and programs that will support training for Chobani employees. The current vote on campus regarding the A&P program is whether the program remains on the books or not.

Senators and College members in attendance expressed their comments, concerns, and frustrations with the closing of the A&P program. These included encouragement for letter campaigns to the County (such as **this letter**); concerns that as an FAA-operated airport, Griffiss must prioritize aviation over all other initiatives and this decision appears to violate that; the fact that our program has been used as a model for other programs across the state, with our faculty training the faculty at other institutions; and whether the airports in Syracuse or Albany could be used to house the program (which would result in conflicts with programs at Onondaga and Hudson Valley Community Colleges).

R. VanWagoner shared his appreciation for the comments, agreeing that it is not an easy situation by any means.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, M. Parry, K. Pine

There were no comments, questions, or concerns about **the report**.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller reported that she responded to an FCCC survey about how federal changes have impacted our College, and that she will attend the FCCC Plenary at the end of the month. She will report on two resolutions at the April Senate meeting.

Questions and Open Forum

A. Miller expressed a desire to begin a dialogue concerning faculty and staff input when student-facing changes occur. This is in response to a conversation held at Faculty Caucus regarding a recent decision that was made without faculty and staff input that has resulted in some safety concerns.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, April 7th at 2:30PM via Teams

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, March 17th, 2026

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, March 31st at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski