

# MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

2:30pm Teams

## Attendance

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### Present

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

### Student Senators

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

T. Burke	M. McHarris	A. Nolan	J. Wilkie
S. McGovern	K. Montague	A. Roy–Small	

## Call to Order

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C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM.

## Student Congress Report

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*S. Thein*

S. Thein reported that the Professionals Day collaboration with SUNY Poly was a success. In addition to those from MVCC and SUNY Poly, representatives from Utica University and Mayor Galime were present. Renovations on the Hallway will be later than anticipated due to other projects Facilities is committed to, and students are enjoying the updates to the Spiritual Room.

Student engagement with Student Congress has increased and the Executive Team would like to update the Student Handbook to better align with current practices and to update the guidelines for club advisors and students in executive roles. Student Congress is interested in contributing funds to complete the furnishings of the library and potentially the Payne Hall lobby. S. Thein expressed appreciation that the potholes on campus have been fixed, and hopes that safety measures (such as speed signs or flashing lights) can be instituted in the parking lots as well.

Nominations for Student Congress officers will begin on Thursday.

## **Heart & Pride of Hawk**

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*R. VanWagoner*

The Heart of the Hawk Award was presented to A. Sharma for his approach to student-centered teaching with intention, empathy, and equity, as well as his innovative approach to teaching physics in the prison environment.

The Pride of the Hawk Award was presented to A. Palmer for his thoughtful leadership, collaboration between internal and external partners, and his commitment to the College's mission.

## **Approval of Senate Minutes**

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*March Minutes*

The minutes from the March meeting were approved (E. Bush, S. Crocker) (25, 0, 2).

## **Old Business**

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### **Transition from Standing Diversity Committee to IDEA Group**

*T. Marshall*

T. Marshall reminded senators that the Diversity Committee would like to transition to a more nimble and responsive group with more meaningful and intentional contributions. Eleven of the current thirteen members have agreed to remain in the new IDEA\* Group, and a review and update of the Guiding Principles for Equity on Campus will be shared this fall.

S. Crocker moved to dissolve the Diversity Committee and transition it to the IDEA group (M. Kuczynski second). The motion carried (28, 1, 0).

### **Revisions to the College Planning Process Discussion & Breakout Session**

*R. VanWagoner*

Senators discussed the proposed changes to the annual planning process in Breakout Rooms before engaging in a Senate-wide conversation. Highlights from the conversation include:

- Having a simplified annual plan will meet Middle States requirements while allowing the College to adjust to demands from SUNY. This process will also allow the College to better work towards institutional KPIs.
- Following the model of current budget conversations, the College community could engage in the planning process through Campus conversations, with R. VanWagoner providing updates at Senate meetings.
- There will continue to be broad representation in the shared governance process with contributions from Hawk Vision, Senate Advisory, the Faculty Caucus, and the Campus Conversations.
- Schools will continue to reflect goals and adjust annually. The Data Summit could be a good venue to finalize goals.

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\* Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

- J. Ireland requested that a member from the library or Learning Commons be added to the Institutional Effectiveness Council to ensure continued representation in the planning process, since the IEC will absorb some of the Annual Planning Council's work.
- The review of the College's Vision, Mission, Values, and other statements could be discussed in open forums or overseen by IEC.

S. McManus moved (K. Cordary second) to dissolve the current Annual Planning Council and adopt the planning process as proposed. The motion carried (26, 0, 4).

## **New Business**

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### **Public Safety Body Cameras**

*B. Coromato*

Tabled to the May meeting to permit physical demonstration of the cameras and additional time for senators to review **the guidelines** on Teams.

## **Standing Reports**

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### **Chair Report**

*C. Miller*

C. Miller reported on her attendance at the FCCC Plenary, where conversations centered around academic freedom and a renewed interest in forming CGL<sup>†</sup> cohorts by region. She and President VanWagoner have resumed meetings with the Student Congress Executives. Nominations for Senate Chair, Vice Chair, and Senate Advisory should be sent to C. Miller or S. Frisbee.

### **President's Report**

*R. VanWagoner*

R. VanWagoner provided an update on the College Budget. Highlights include:

- Revenue projections were made assuming flat enrollment with no change to State aid and increases to tuition (2%), IT/Student Support fees, and County support (2%). The tuition increase still keeps MVCC in the bottom ten across SUNY and fees have not been increased in six years.
- Priorities include maintaining expenditures, eliminating 8 vacant positions, and creating nine positions (four for Dental Hygiene, three new faculty, Athletic Director, and Chief Financial Officer). Over 80% of the budget is for personnel.
- The current \$1.7 million deficit status is similar to last year. The fund balance is projected between 6–7% and cannot go below 5%.

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<sup>†</sup> Campus Governance Leaders

## Vice Presidents' Report

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

There was a question regarding whether students who do not pay the Student Activities fees can participate in student activities. For example, P-TECH<sup>‡</sup> students do not have their fees paid by BOCES. K. Pine responded that yes, P-TECH students can participate currently.

Conversations to adjust MOUs held with pre-college groups to ensure access to programs and activities are in the preliminary stages.

The full report is available on the Teams channel [here](#).

## SUNY Transfer Liaison Report

*H. Doty*

SUNY would like to ensure consistency across SUNY between native and transfer students. For example, many colleges require a C for transfer credits to be accepted when that is not the case for native students. H. Doty encourages senators to review the SUNY-wide Minimum Transfer Course Grade Policy and the SUNY-wide Standardized Minimum Test Score Policy and to share your feedback [here](#) or with L. Kahler.

## FCCC Report

*A. Miller*

A. Miller reported on several topics from the recent FCCC Plenary and shared materials available [here](#). Highlighted topics include:

- The FCCC has been effective in sharing information with SUNY, advocating for extended timelines to allow increased faculty contributions to SUNY initiatives. Faculty should be involved in making policies, not simply responding to them. The Workforce Pell grants seem similar to our Fast-Track.
- Initiatives listed in SUNY's Academic Momentum Campaign are largely what MVCC already does well.
- Transfer Path revisions are being rebooted. More four-year institutions accept D/D– grades than we thought – approximately 48% of four-year schools accept D/D– grades as transfer credits.
- Resources regarding academic freedom are available on Teams.
- Middle States wants online courses to have regular substantive interaction, not canned courses from publishing companies.

## Faculty Caucus Report

*A. Fried*

The last meeting was on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be April 21<sup>st</sup>. Please send A. Fried a message if there's anything you would like to discuss.

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<sup>‡</sup> Pathways in Technology Early College High School

## **Questions and Open Forum**

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D. Sonne asked about the difference in what needs to be done for policies vs. procedures. L. Kahler referred to the **policy on policies** approved by the Board of Trustees.

D. Sonne also conveyed a concern from a constituent who asked Senate to make a statement rejecting the rationale for the closing of the Airframe and Powerplant program. Instead, senators encourage those concerned to contact their local legislature, as it is something beyond the College's ability to change.

S. McCall reminded senators of G. Searles' retirement celebration, scheduled for Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at Roman's. Please RSVP by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

**Next Senate Meeting:** Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM in WH 225

**Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due:** Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Next Senate Advisory Meeting:** Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski