

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

2:30pm WH 225

Attendance

Present

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

Student Senators

S. Thein

Absent/Excused

T. Burke P. Moe K. Montague J. Rodriguez

Call to Order

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

Student Congress Report

S. Thein

S. Thein reported on the following:

- new carpeting has been installed in the Spiritual Room and prayer rugs will be coming soon
- revisions to the handbook will likely be completed by the end of Fall 2026
- Student Congress donated \$200,000 to the theater; the stage will be named the “Student Congress Stage”
- An increase to the Rome budget is planned so that more of the events that occur on the Utica campus can also occur on the Rome campus. Student Club allotments have increased from \$500 to \$600 for active clubs (\$250 to \$300 for inactive clubs). The student activity fee has not changed.
- The student body approved a transition from the Hawks Life app to Viva Engage. This will save \$13,000 from the student activity budget.
- The newly elected Student Congress officers include D. Almleaf (President); F. Rahman (Vice President of Utica); C. Vitevitch (Vice President of Rome); P. Moe (Treasurer); B. Simmon-Noel (Program Board Director); and M. Ibrahim (Trustee).

S. Thein expressed her appreciation for her time serving as Student Congress President.

Approval of Senate Minutes

April Minutes

The minutes from the April meeting were approved with a minor change (D. Sonne, M. Kuczynski) (35, 0, 0).

Old Business

Middle States Self Report Update

A. Nolan, R. Wittenberg

A. Nolan and R. Wittenberg reported on the work done on the Middle States Self Report so far. The following timeline summarizes the progress made so far:

- Summer 2025: A. Nolan and R. Wittenberg compiled templates, guidelines, and baseline evidence.
- August 2025: Working Group & Steering Committee Meetings begin
- October 2025: Deliverable #1: Criteria Narratives and Evidence Analysis
- November 2025: Deliverable #2: Commendations and Commitments
- December 2025: A. Nolan, R. Wittenberg, and J. Heintz presented at the MSCHE Annual Conference
- December 2025: Deliverable #3: Standard Report First Drafts
- January 2026: A. Nolan, R. Wittenberg, J. Heintz, and N. Rosero review the Standard First Drafts
- January 2026: Feedback Sessions with Working Group Co-Chairs
- March 2026: Deliverable #3.5: Content Revisions
- April 30, 2026: Deliverable #4; Standard Report Final Drafts

The next steps of the process include:

- Summer 2026: Combine the Self-Study Report and First Pass Edits; Cabinet Review; Writing Team Edits
- Fall 2026: Fall Opening and Call for Comments; Self-Study Report due to MSCHE October 1st; Evaluation Team Chair Preliminary Visit (end of Oct/early Nov)

New Business

Public Safety Body Cameras

B. Coromato

Executive Director for Public Safety and Emergency Management B. Coromato reported on the purchase of body cameras for public safety officers. The College purchased cameras from the Axon company (which is used by all law enforcement departments in Oneida County) and will use Lexipol policies and guidelines (which use best practices for colleges and universities, including community colleges). As part of the contract, Axon will perform regular training. Additional training will be provided as needed.

The camera sits in the center of the chest area and stores video 30 seconds before being turned on. When on, the camera will beep and vibrate every minute or so, although it may not be easy for a non-officer to tell if the camera is on or not (this is for the safety of officers who may need to be hidden). Officers will have their cameras on when dispatched and you can ask if the camera is recording.

Supervising Public Safety Officer & Peace Officer R. Barsuch will review camera footage and bring issues to B. Coromato as they arise. Camera footage has already led to a conversation for officer training with regards to mental health issues. B. Coromato will also check periodically to ensure cameras are being used in compliance with the policy.

Footage from the cameras will not be shared, and if footage is found to have been distributed, B. Coromato would recommend an internal investigation resulting in termination of the responsible employee.

MVCC's Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Misconduct

J. DeWeerth, K. Pine

After a series of changes to federal regulations regarding Title IX between Fall 2024 and January 2025, the College reverted to its 2020 policy on sexual harassment, assault, and misconduct. However, court decisions between 2020 and 2025 have resulted in changes needing to be made and, after being reviewed by an expert attorney, the College immediately fixed critical compliance and liability issues regarding procedures. The Title IX policies and procedures will continue to be followed for anything that falls under those definitions. However, the College needs to develop policies and procedures for violations that do not meet the scope or jurisdiction of Title IX. We have continued to work to develop a policy that is compliant with New York State Article 129-B. Once the policy is completed, the College will have lawyers draft procedures for incidents that do not fall under Title IX.

J. DeWeerth and K. Pine have already received feedback regarding typos and other suggestions. One question that has been frequently asked is why the main violations are listed twice within the same policy. Our legal council strongly advised that they be listed twice. Court decisions made on the federal or state level could result in changes needing to be made, and the federal and state requirements do not always match. Keeping them separate allows us to ensure we are meeting different definitions and requirements.

Employee Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy

C. Marceau

C. Marceau reported that the College worked with the same lawyers to develop the policy for employees. It is not much different from what the College has been doing, but follows the New York State model policy. The intent is to keep policies for students and employees separate, but if an incident falls under Title IX, then that is where it will be addressed.

Standing Reports

Chair Report

C. Miller

S. Frisbee shared a few announcements, including:

- changes to Commencement will include the faculty procession taking place at 3:50pm, before the ceremony officially begins at 4:00pm with the platform party procession, followed by the students
- a reminder that voting for Senate committees and councils will remain open until 5:00pm tomorrow. Those who are elected will be notified by the end of the week.

S. Frisbee then recognized C. Miller's leadership, empathy, thoughtfulness, and tact in her role as Chair of Senate. He remarked on her lasting impression to onboarding, online meetings, communication with Cabinet and Student Congress, By-Laws changes, and the transition of the committees and councils.

C. Miller thanked S. Frisbee before reminding Senators that there will be a vote for Senate Chair, Vice Chair, and Senate Advisory members at the Special Senate Meeting. Please share nominations with C. Miller ahead of time.

C. Miller also thanked members of the Senate Advisory, G. Karol, A. Frank, S. Frisbee, and A. Radlowski for their help in her tenure as Senate Chair.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner thanked Student Congress, D. Ferro-Aurience, and the Advancement Office for their investment in not only the Stage, but also Payne Hall renovations to create three new study rooms, carpeting, an office suite for Human Resources, and \$100,000 for classroom furniture two years in a row (matched by the County).

R. VanWagoner shared with the Board of Trustees a budget report similar to what he shared at Senate last month. The State is still without a budget, so we are planning on flat funding from the State.

R. VanWagoner thanked the Senate for the conversation last month regarding the Annual Plan. The plan for 2026-27 is a consolidation of all the other plans and is fairly straightforward: increase student success; implement SUNY AcMo and SUNY Diversity plans; Academic Intervention Plan; Strengthen the educational pipeline. In particular, the College will collaborate with SUNY Albany, SUNY Poly, and SUNY Oneonta and increase its market-share of high school graduates in the largest four districts in the area (Proctor, Rome, VVS, and Whitesboro). Other areas of focus include a dual credit action plan, working with ATD, developing the workforce and community, improve operational effectiveness, and develop and implement a Board policy about AI.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, M. Parry, K. Pine

There were no questions or comments for the Vice Presidents. The **full report** is available on Teams.

FCCC Report

A. Miller

A. Miller reported that faculty were involved in writing the SUNY AI Policy. See also **AI for the Public Good Fellows**. A joint effort between FCCC and UFS to provide training this summer on shared governance was just announced. Room and board is provided, though space is limited.

Faculty Caucus Report

A. Fried

A. Fried reported that the last meeting of the Faculty Caucus for the semester is on May 14th at 2:30pm. Topics on the agenda include institutional research, Middle States, athletics, and the bookstore.

Questions and Open Forum

C. Miller thanked S. Frisbee for his amazing work as Vice Chair and shared her appreciation for A. Miller for her diligent and hard work as FCCC representative.

D. Sonne thanked D. Ferro-Aurience for her help at a recent Future Engineers Alumni Panel.

The Special Senate Meeting will last roughly 30 minutes to an hour and will be held in WH 225. New and returning Senators are expected to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Next Regular Senate Meeting: Tuesday, September 1st at 2:30PM in WH 225

Special Senate Meeting: Monday, May 18th at 1:00PM in WH 225

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, August 11th, 2026

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

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski