

**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Mohawk Valley Community College Board of Trustees held in the Plumley Complex, Room 150, Rome, New York was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Dubeck on Monday, October 16, 2023.

**Members Present**

Frank Dubeck, Jr.  
Wendy Waters  
Anthony (Tony) Colón  
William S. Calli, Jr. (arrived at 4:11 p.m.)  
Elaine Falvo (departed at 5:45 p.m.)  
Camille Kahler  
Dana Jerrard  
David Mathis  
Student Trustee Justin Kobler

**Members Excused**

Anna D'Ambrosio

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair Dubeck welcomed everyone to the October Board meeting on the Rome Campus. He then went on to report on a number of awards and accolades as follows: 35 MVCC student athletes were named to the 2022-2023 National Junior Athletic Association All-Academic Team in recognition of their dedication to success in the classroom; MVCC's PTK Lambda Beta Chapter received several awards and honors including Most Distinguished Honors in Action Project Theme Award, Distinguished College Project Award, Excellence in Community Service, Leadership Award, and PTK Vice President Aidan Ferguson received the Most Distinguished Chapter Officer; and MVCC has been named the 2022-23 Mathematics Competition Champion from the NYSMATYC with a combined score of 160 points from the fall and spring math league competitions held at two-year colleges across New York State.

Chair Dubeck then asked Vice President Squires for the Treasurer's Report.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Vice President Squires explained his report does not include the usual Revenue, Expenditure, and Fund Balance reports as the College has begun to close the books on the last budget year with the Auditors' field work to begin on October 30. He went on to report that payroll has completed all 22-23 retro payments for the APA union which were reflected in the September 29 pay period. Further, the County and the College have reached a tentative agreement on the Blue Collar UPSEU contract. Vice President Squires concluded that the first disbursement of financial aid refund checks for the fall semester were distributed September 29.

**4. Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Justin Kobler reported that Student Congress has passed a resolution asking for

the College to communicate the Smoke Free Policy and reassure students that the College and its governing bodies support a smoke free campus. He will be working with the Vice Presidents to develop communication plans around this effort. Further, Student Congress passed new club rules that state clubs must have ten members in order to be considered an official club and have access to Student Congress Activity funds but clubs with only five members are still able to meet/promote themselves to gain additional membership. Student Trustee Kobler concluded that Student Congress has submitted feedback to change the Student Class Survey to add a section for student feedback.

## **5. Committee and Affiliation Reports**

### Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience reported that the IA Office has pulled together a few years' worth of data related to the Francis A. Wilcox Presidential and Exceptional Student scholarships, with the purpose of analyzing the impact on the Foundation and students, if the scholarship criteria were modified. A trend was identified that the percentage of students who are receiving scholarships, and are not eligible for financial aid is increasing, which means the Foundation is paying the full tuition amount for those students. If the criteria for the scholarship was adjusted to reflect the \$1,000 of PELL to be applied first, it would save the Foundation on average \$11,700 per year but would increase the out-of-pocket expenses on average \$375 for a small number of students. The Foundation has yet to be invoiced for the Fall of 2023, however, there are 83 Presidential/ Exceptional students this Fall semester which is an increase of 22% and the bill is estimated to be around \$155,000.

The scholarship awards are paid to the College using a combination of the funding from the endowed Francis A. Wilcox Scholarship account, and unrestricted funding. Currently, the scholarship endowment is not high enough to cover the total cost of the scholarships awarded annually. The principal of the endowed fund is currently \$2,625,859, and right now we only have \$38,099 in the available balance to use for the Fall billing. Looking at the long-term we would need to increase the endowment principal for this fund to between \$8M-\$8.5M to be able to cover the annual cost of the scholarship and the 2% administration fee if we use a 5% return average. So, for the foreseeable future the Foundation will need to continue to monitor the funding accounts and scholarship trends and when necessary, review scholarship criteria.

She concluded that the Foundation Executive Committee will meet October 19, and the MVCC Foundation Board will meet on November 2.

### ACCT/NYCCT

Vice Chair Wendy Waters reported on her takeaways from the recent ACCT Leadership Congress that was held October 9-12. Roughly 1,900 delegates attended the conference centered around Building a Legacy: Uplifting Students and Transforming Communities. Conference tracks included enrollment strategies, technology/innovation, DEI, uplifting students/wrap around services, and transforming communities/workforce. A few MVCC Trustees may be running for elected positions and will be submitting their letters of interest and applications by November 1. Vice Chair Waters was asked to serve on the ACCT Advocacy Committee. Coming up, the ACCT National Legislative Summit is scheduled for February 4-7 in Washington, DC.

Trustee David Mathis concluded the report by reminding the Board that the NYCCT Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held November 3-4 in Saratoga Spring, and an NYCCT Board meeting April 20, 2024.

### SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner reported that NYCCAP was meeting today. He attended the Presidents dinner last night to connect as he was going to miss the NYCCAP meeting. The Chancellor will be holding a SUNY Presidents meeting tomorrow that President VanWagoner will be attending.

## **6. President's Report**

President VanWagoner reviewed the KPI data point MVCC provides accessible educational opportunities noting the three indicators as provided in the Board's prep materials: 1. Student loan default rate; 2. Tuition is below the average among SUNY community colleges; and 3. Courses are offered how and when needed. With student loan repayments resuming in October since being on hold from the pandemic, the student loan default rate will not begin to see a true data trend for a few years. The College is exploring additional metrics to gauge financial aid in the meantime. With regard to tuition, MVCC ranked second in lowest tuition out of all the community colleges two years ago and as the college has slightly increased tuition, MVCC is ranked tenth in lowest tuition. As for courses offered how and when needed, academics did not cancel any classes leading up to the start of the semester due to careful planning on what courses are needed and how many sections to offer.

He then asked Senate Chair Christine Miller and FCCC Representative Amanda Miller to provide an update on College Senate and FCCC respectively.

### College Senate

Senate Chair Christine Miller reported on her takeaways from the FCCC Wellness Check visit and initial feedback received. The report will be communicated to the Board once it has been received. She concluded with an update on the Senate Ad Hoc committee charged with reviewing governance charters/committees. The Ad Hoc committee plans to bring their recommendations to College Senate in November/December.

### FCCC Plenary

FCCC Representative Amanda Miller reported on the recent FCCC Plenary. She reviewed the slide deck that was shared at the meeting and her takeaways from the sessions and speakers. FCCC passed a resolution around non-credit to credit and asked for campus endorsement. Associate Professor Miller will be taking this resolution to Faculty Caucus and College Senate in November.

President VanWagoner concluded his report by extending an invitation to the Board to the Community Convening on *Workforce: Building Better Futures* being held October 30 beginning at 4pm in the Schafer Theater.

## **7. Vice President Report: Student Affairs Spotlight: Rome Campus update**

The Board had no questions on the written reports from the Vice Presidents. Vice President Abreu introduced Jennifer DeWeerth, Dean of the Rome Campus and Community Outreach, for

the Student Affairs spotlight. Jennifer DeWeerth provided a Rome Campus update. Highlights included the BOCES Access Center, food trucks on campus through MVILR partnership, Discover Rome Day which was a full day of hands on experience offered to 70-100 BOCES students and school districts, and the free lunch program from CNY Food Bank and Rome Hannaford. Community events are still being held on the Rome campus, active recruitment efforts similar to Discover Rome Day are being held, increased partnerships between Rome Campus, the College and community were reviewed, and the APEX transportation solution to bus students from Utica to Rome was reviewed. Dean DeWeerth concluded by reviewing Rome Campus usage data and future direction of the Rome Campus.

#### **8. Discussion Item: Advocacy Update**

President VanWagoner reviewed the two Advocacy flyers developed between NYCCT and NYCCAP with the Board and asked for feedback into which flyer the board prefers. Next steps with Advocacy will be for NYCCT to meet with the SUNY Chancellor and present the advocacy flyer at the NYCCT Annual Conference.

#### **9. Consent Agenda**

- Attachment a.* Minutes of September 18, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report
- Attachment c.* Naming of Conference Room 129 in the Plumley Complex on the Rome Campus: "*Russel C. Fielding Conference Room*"
- Attachment d.* Amend Staffing Plan: Sara Miller, Applied Learning Coordinator

Trustee David Mathis pulled Consent Agenda 9c for further discussion. Trustee Mathis thanked the College, the Foundation, and the Board for recognizing the work of Russel C. Fielding and supporting the resolution for this naming opportunity.

Motion to accept Consent Agenda Items 9c was made by Trustee David Mathis and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón. Unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a, 9b, and 9d was made by Trustee Tony Colón and seconded by Vice Chair Wendy Waters. Unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss contracts was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Vice Chair Wendy Waters. Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:55 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

#### **10. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee David Mathis to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Unanimously approved.