

**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 Stetson Boardroom, Payne Hall, Room 300, Utica, New York was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Dubeck on Monday, January 22, 2024.

Members Present

Frank Dubeck, Jr.
Wendy Waters
William S. Calli, Jr.
Elaine Falvo
Camille Kahler
Dana Jerrard
David Mathis
Anna D'Ambrosio
Student Trustee, Justin Kobler

Members Excused

Anthony (Tony) Colón

2. Chair's Report

Chair Dubeck welcomed everyone to the January Board meeting. Chair Dubeck recognized all of the staff that handled the power outage on January 9th and 10th. Everything seemed to go as smooth as possible considering the untimely disruption in the middle of the final days of preparing for the start of the semester. Further, the last day for students to pay for classes was during the college closure January 10th. Staff collaborated to develop a variety of solutions to adapt systems and processes and in the end, only two classes were cancelled for low enrollment and as of the first day of classes last week, unduplicated credit headcount was up 8% and the FTE count was 5.5%. He then went on to report on a number of college happenings as follows: the Wellness Council sponsored another successful "Hawk Social" event for 30 employees who enjoyed a Utica Comets game from the Adirondack Bank suite donated by Rocco Arcuri; and the thINCubator hosted a very successful Business After Hours for the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce last week with more than 100 people in attendance where they learned more about the 39 co-workers operating their businesses out of the thINC.

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

3. Treasurer's Report

Vice President Squires reviewed the revenue and expenditure reports. Revenue is showing fall tuition is up, the chargeback rate is coming in slightly lower than budgeted, and non-credit is doing well. Expenditures are reflecting academic and non-credit expenses are up, the higher rate for fringe benefits kicked in and is reflected in the expenditure numbers. Vice President Squires reflected that by February 5 spring enrollment should be locked in and will provide a good sense of how tuition will track for the year to help with budget planning for the next fiscal year. Further, the first round of student financial aid refund checks were mailed out to students on

March 1. Vice President Squires concluded that new regulations for county chargebacks went into effect requiring all counties to have an online process for Certificates of Residence. The College is hoping that this new online process will make it more accessible for students to complete rather than the traditional way of having to have forms notarized and brought in person back to their respective counties to process the chargeback.

4. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Justin Kobler reported that the start of the spring semester is off to a great start. Student Congress has two open positions: Vice President of Utica and Treasurer. Students interested in either position will be turning in their paperwork. The Vice President will be elected by Student Congress and the Treasurer will be interviewed and hired by the Student Congress Executive Team. Trustee Kobler concluded that he has been working with Facilities and the Dorm Corporation to install new water filling stations in the dorms. The North and South dormitories have had their water fountains replaced with Water Filling stations.

5. Committee and Affiliation Reports

Academic Student Success Committee

Vice Chair Waters reported that the Academic Student Success Committee met on January 12. The committee received a preview of the Board Retreat topic Agile Brain by Vice President Abreu as well as a presentation and discussion on protected speech that will be presented before the full board as today board discussion item. The committee then heard from Vice President Kahler on several academic curriculum changes proposed by the College Wide Curriculum Committee. Vice President Kahler and Assistant Vice President Tim Thomas concluded the meeting with a presentation to the committee on partnerships with Middle Settlement Academy/BOCES, OPWDD, New York State Power Authority, and the Bureau of Refugee Services.

Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience reported that the Foundation received a planned gift from the estate of Judith N. Kelly. Judith graduated from MVCC in 1959, she worked 10 years for Walters Chevrolet and retired from Royal Insurance Company following 26 years of service as a Senior Casualty Underwriter. Judith chose to include MVCC as one of the beneficiaries of her trust, and the Foundation received partial payment of \$69,900, with the remaining funds expected sometime during 2024. A portion of these funds will be used to create a new scholarship for the School of Business & Hospitality, with the remaining funds to support MVCC's areas of greatest need.

The Foundation is currently reviewing our scholarship criteria, and the impact of the Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action as it relates to college admissions, and how it could impact our scholarship program. We currently have 9 scholarships in which race, ethnicity or gender are part of the criteria. We are also looking at 11 scholarships in which age is part of the criteria as well. Some of the articles related to the supreme court ruling refer to the pooling and matching method of awarding scholarships. This is what many 4-year private institutions do, however there has not been much clarification on how exactly that process should be implemented. SUNY's guidance is to have the criteria reviewed by our local council, and Andrew Dean has been kind enough to

begin reviewing and researching for us. Certainly, more to come on this as we get more information.

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience further went on to report that the Foundation currently has approximately \$9,006,025 in combined portfolios. She concluded that the MVCC Foundation Executive Committee will meet on January 24 and the MVCC Foundation Board will meet on February 1.

ACCT/NYCCT

There was no ACCT update.

Vice Chair Wendy Waters reported that NYCCT advocacy meetings are on-going and will continue through the next month. President VanWagoner will join Vice Chair Waters, Student Trustee Kobler and Student Congress President Naruse at the NYCCT Legislative Dinner in Albany early next week. The report concluded that NYCCT has organized a reception with Senator Gillibrand and Senator Schumer during the upcoming ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C.

SUNY/NYCCAP

There was no SUNY/NYCCAP report.

6. President's Report

President VanWagoner began by reviewing the KPI data point *MVCC is committed to student success* noting the six indicators as provided in the Board's prep materials: 1. Graduation rates; 2. Persistence momentum fall-spring/fall-fall; 3. Average credit hours at graduation; 4. Early momentum indicators; 5. Gateway momentum; and 6. Program credit momentum. The data provided to the Board represented the COVID cohort with two-year graduation rates increasing from 24% to 25% and 33% to 34%. Average credits to graduation data are showing a higher trend compared to last year's data but is still an improvement when compared to pre-guided pathways data.

He then asked Senate Chair Christine Miller for the Senate report.

College Senate

Senate Chair Christine Miller reported that the College Senate held a special meeting in January to discuss the recommendations of the College Senate Task Force on Committees and Councils. Further feedback was provided and the Task Force will continue to update their recommendations based on the feedback received. The Task Force will bring final recommendations for a vote to the February College Senate meeting. The report concluded with the College Senate endorsing the Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies.

The Board commented that they are happy to see the taskforce engaged Student Congress officers and students as part of the taskforce's review process to seek the student perspective and needs on the governance structure.

President VanWagoner concluded by reviewing the draft agenda and proposed topics for the February Board Retreat.

7. **Vice President Reports and Administrative Services Spotlight: Vice President Squires**

The Board had no questions on the written reports from the Vice Presidents. Vice President Squires presented an overview on the financial health of the community college sector and compared MVCC financial measurements to those of other community colleges across the system.

8. **Discussion Items:**

Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Board Policy Revisions

Board Policy 2004 Conflict of Interest and Board Policy 2005 Whistleblower Policy were brought before the Board as a first reading for subsequent discussion. President VanWagoner stated that the policy revisions have been vetted through the shared governance structure as well as the Governance Personnel Committee. With no further discussion, the revisions will be placed on the Consent Agenda at the March meeting.

Protected Speech Presentation

Building off the Academic Student Success Committee meeting, Vice President Abreu presented an overview of protected speech, what it means, and the facets of the college that foster free and protected speech on campus.

9. **Consent Agenda**

- Attachment a.* Minutes of December 18, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting
- Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report
- Attachment c.* Program Deactivation and Discontinuation: Allied Health Certificate
- Attachment d.* Program Revision Proposal: Theater A.A. to Theater Arts A.S.
- Attachment e.* Microcredential Proposal: School of Art Pathways
- Attachment f.* MD Sakibul Noyon, Programmer
- Attachment g.* Amend Staffing Plan: Michelle Luvisi, Registration Specialist

Consent Agenda Items 9c, 9d, and 9e were pulled for further discussion.

Motion to accept Consent Agenda Items 9a, 9b, 9f, and 9g was made by Trustee David Mathis and seconded by Trustee Elaine Falvo. Unanimously approved.

Vice President Kahler provided further detail and college rationale behind Consent Agenda Items 9c, 9d, and 9e.

Motion to accept Consent Agenda Items 9c, 9d, and 9e was made by Vice Chair Wendy Waters and seconded by Trustee William S. Calli. Unanimously approved.

Motion for an executive session with no further action to discuss legal issues was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by Trustee Anna D'Ambrosio. Unanimously approved.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 5:19 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 5:49 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Camille Kahler and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Unanimously approved.