

MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

2:30pm in WH 225

Attendance

Present: M. Barlett (attending for A. Miller), E. Bush, S. Crocker, N. Evanoff, M. Faitell, S. Frisbee, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. Krush (attending for R. Spetka), M. Kuczynski, S. McCall, M. McHarris, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, A. Sandstrom, C. VanNamee, J. Wilcox, R. Wittenberg

Student Senators: L. Holmes, A. Jackson

Absent/Excused: C. Albrecht, S. Cummings, R. Golden, D. Head, B. Horender, S. Lai, S. McGovern, M. Miknavich, A. Miller, A. Nolan, M. Parry, A. Roy Small, S. Selden, R. Spetka, R. VanWagoner, F. Vellone, L. Warring, L. Williams, J. Woodrow

Call to Order

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

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the November 1, 2022 Meeting

The minutes were approved with some changes. (S. Frisbee, R. Wittenberg) (21,0,0)

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller

As we are at the halfway point of the year, the Senate Advisory Committee is assessing the status of the Senate goals. For campuses seeking to maintain a healthy governance system, the FCCC is offering a Wellness Check. There are different levels of checks that can be done, and R. VanWagoner and C. Miller will write a joint letter to FCCC requesting an assessment on our governance processes. Ideally the Wellness Check will take place in early February 2023 and will inform the development of future senate goals at the Senate Retreat in May. Suggestions for processes that should be checked or changes that could be made should be sent to cmiller@mvcc.edu.

Old Business

Proposed General Education Changes

M. Barlett

M. Barlett reported that the proposal has been reviewed from various agencies around the College and was approved by Faculty Caucus. The proposed changes would be implemented into the Fall 2023 catalog.

A motion was made to recommend the policy changes to L. Kahler, who will then bring the policy to the Board of Trustees Academic & Student Success Committee (A. Radlowski, M. Kuczynski). The motion was approved (19, 0, 1).

Preferred Transfer Partner

L. Kahler

L. Kahler has received feedback on the framework from deans, faculty, the Senate, and others. The overriding response has been that in order for the document to be effective for students, the framework will need to address transfer partnerships by program. However, the institutional-level information is helpful for administration in conversations with transfer institutions. Therefore, L. Kahler will develop a framework incorporating institutional information for administration that connects with a per-program description to use internally when advising students, with a draft ready in early Spring 2023.

Currently, there is a process for students who run into difficulty with transferring credits, wherein students can complete a form on the MVCC website, which is then sent to L. Kahler, who contacts the Chief Academic Officer at the transfer institution and they discuss the refusal of transfer credits, with additional SUNY mediations as necessary. Those who are aware of SUNY institutions not accepting transfer credits should contact L. Kahler.

n.b. Upon further research after the Senate meeting, it seems that the link on the MVCC website may have been lost when changes were made to the Transfer Services webpage. L. Kahler apologizes for the error and shares instead this link directly to the SUNY process: <https://system.suny.edu/academic-affairs/student-mobility/student-transfer-appeal-process/> L. Kahler will also work with Marketing to create a page on the MVCC Website walking students through the process as well.

New Business

Updates from the Chief Diversity Office

T. Marshall

Tabled for a future Senate meeting.

Student Congress Report

L. Holmes

L. Holmes shared that the Program Board and other volunteers, along with American Dining, created pies for the [JCTOD Outreach Center](#). Additionally, Student Congress Unclassified continues to be a success, especially when food is provided.

Some recent suggestions and concerns shared at Student Congress Meetings and through the Student Trustee Idea Box on the website include:

- investigating installing vending machines (or baskets in restrooms) for sanitary products around campus and in dorms
- investigating whether non-expired drinks and food items from the Bookstore can be donated to C3
- discussed whether American flags should be placed in all classrooms around campus (ultimately decided not to do so due to expense and causing some students from our diverse population to feel unwelcome)

Starting in Spring 2023, Student Congress will now meet at 3:30pm on Tuesdays in ACC116 (proposals will be due the Friday before at noon). The last meeting of the semester will be December 8th.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner

R. VanWagoner was unable to be present at the meeting, but emailed the attached report.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, T. Squires

The discussion regarding the Vice Presidents' Report (attached) included the following:

- A concern was raised that faculty are not notified when student class surveys are available on Blackboard. L. Kahler will connect with J. Lynch and M. Miknavich to ensure faculty are notified when the surveys are available in the future.
- After the switch to MyMV, students are no longer prompted to enroll in SUNY Alert at the start of each semester. The I.T. staff are working to put something in place for future semesters, and the emergency alert is still available to faculty and students under its own menu in MyMV.
- Regarding MyMV, some faculty expressed concerns that when trying to access the Faculty Self-service, they're told they don't have authorization and are moved to the Student Self-service page instead. After multiple attempts to access the Faculty Self-service page, the issue seems to self-correct.

FCCC Report

M. Barlett

On behalf of A. Miller, M. Barlett reported that we have a new Chancellor – John B. King Jr., who will start January 17th.

The Interim Chancellor responded to the FCCC resolutions that were discussed at the previous Senate meeting:

- **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Support**
The Interim Chancellor noted that a few things will be coming this Spring, including diversity fellows programs and planning a Diversity in the Curriculum conference (both virtual and in-person)
- **Upper Division Definition**
The Student Mobility Steering Committee is focusing on making transfer connections and ensuring that courses are being accepted at appropriate levels
- **Mental Health & Wellness**
The State is working on a larger level in developing county-level work for employee mental health and wellness

A new FCCC resolution (the 2023/2024 Community College Advocacy) was then discussed and endorsed (S. Frisbee, S. Crocker) (21, 0, 0).

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar

S. Dar reported on the conversations held at the last Faculty Caucus meeting, including:

- a diversity conversation, led by E. Gifford, regarding ways to make classrooms more inclusive for international students
- an update on student class surveys, which are being redesigned to be more equitable, inclusive, and fair, will be shared when available

- concerns regarding windows on classroom doors, as well as phones being placed next to classroom doors, in case of an active shooter on campus. T. Squires is looking into whether or not the phone locations can be changed when the move to virtual phones is made, but it will depend on wiring behind the wall
- concerns that faculty see a drop in attendance on Columbus Day, and whether or not that day can be used as an Advising Day
- concerns regarding the lack of a child care facility on campus. Now that SUNY grants are available, we can explore that possibility
- concerns from faculty members who advise student clubs that the paperwork seems more time-consuming than it used to be, and whether or not the remaining paper forms can be changed to online. L. Holmes will bring back to Student Congress.

Open Forum

Comments from Senators included:

- Thank you M. McHarris & his team for the benches outside Payne Hall!
- Welcome to A. Sandstrom, who is the new representative for Health Sciences.
- Congratulations to the students who participated in the New York State Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges (NYSMATYC) test, for MVCC had the highest scoring team!
- Is it possible for there to be more artwork across campus, such as sculptures created by students

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42pm. (S. Crocker, A. Jackson)

Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Next Regular Senate Meeting will be:

Tuesday, February 7th at 2:30 PM in person in WH225

The next Senate Advisory Routing Sheet for applicable Agenda item proposals is **due: Tuesday, January 24th.**

The next Senate Advisory Meeting will be **Tuesday January 31st 2:30 PM via Teams**

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report to College Senate

December 6, 2022

Mohawk Valley Community College

Fun Fact

I don't have much news on the budget since last month, as we're very soon to send out the budget request documents to budget managers in the next step of the process for next year's budget. However, in my reflective moments on the budget, I thought about the difference between the enrollment-driven state aid formula for community colleges and the "maintenance of effort" of the Counties where they can't reduce their support – the essence of the "funding floor" we've received the past two years from the State. What would it look like if the State had "maintained their effort" to support community colleges like the Counties? If the community college sector simply received the funding floor for state base aid in 2008-09 and held it steady through today, 14 years later, SUNY's 30 community colleges would have \$40M (8%) more state aid than we do today (not adjusted for inflation).

Budget Advocacy

I'm so pleased to see the Faculty Council of Community Colleges pass a resolution to support our community college advocacy efforts. I think it will add a strong piece to our collective advocacy. I greatly appreciate the Senate's consideration of endorsing the resolution and hope that it passes.

What Have I Been Thinking About Lately?

I chair the New York State Student Success Center that SUNY facilitates with the support of Jobs For the Future (JFF) and funding from the Lumina Foundation and others to provide technical assistance for student success work within the Guided Pathways framework. Our recent meeting included hearing about JFF's new Guided Career Pathways Framework. It's sort of a Guided Pathways 2.0 iteration with greater importance placed on connecting career exploration, guidance, and experiences throughout the student educational journey – adding greater emphasis on many things I think we're already doing at MVCC.

The framework aligned with what Tim Thomas and I heard at a recent meeting of the JFF-supported Community College Workforce Consortium. MVCC is the second smallest community college among 30 or so in the Consortium that consider themselves "workforce forward" – most of which are between 20,000 and 80,000 credit students and near that in non-credit students.

At the Consortium meeting we were reminded by most every speaker and topic that workforce development can quickly be narrowly viewed as "employer service" – just providing local employers with workers. In those colleges, workforce training staff (CCED-type) are in a routine of "smiling and dialing" selling training to employers and, at best, community colleges try to help their students get jobs. In a workforce-forward community college, workforce development is viewed an overarching design principle for all programs and services/credit and non-credit. Additionally, it's not just about helping students connect to a path, stay on a path, and complete a credential(s), it's about designing College programs and services to facilitate and accelerate economic mobility for students.

I sit and listen to all of these thought leaders talk conceptually about the very inspiring, high-level notion of being engines to transform lives by increasing economic mobility, but to really make a difference, colleges, counties, states, and the country need to get significantly better at collecting, managing, and using data on post-graduate outcomes. The discussion around economic mobility reminds me of the way national thought leaders were talking about student success, completion, and equity in the early days of the Achieving the Dream network in 2004-2010 that led to the development of the Guided Pathways framework. It'll be interesting to see where it all goes in the next few years.

Vice Presidents' Senate Report

December 6, 2022

Mohawk Valley Community College

- The School of Art in the process of gathering student work for our annual Art Scholarship contest. The submissions are collected online with a deadline of January 1st. The awards are a Presidential Scholarship for first place, \$500.00 for second place, and \$250.00 for third place.
- The School of Art is hosting Art Day on Friday, December 2nd, and we have already registered over a hundred students from six different institutions for the event. This is an event where we open our labs and studios for tours with prospective students.
- The growth of the regional microelectronics industry resulting from expansion of existing players (e.g., Indium, Semikron-Danfoss, Wolfspeed) and new entrants (e.g., Micron, others on the horizon) has led to an increase of our apprenticeship efforts. The College began providing related instruction in support of Indium's apprenticeship program at an Indium location this past fall with the expectation for the training activity with Indium to double during the spring semester and just recently, Wolfspeed announced that they will initiate an apprenticeship program that MVCC will support through the implementation of mandatory related instruction
- We are now entering snow season, and the potential for closing or delaying opening the College due to weather. If we decide to close or delay the opening we will get messaging out between 5 and 5:30 a.m. The quickest way to find out is to sign up for the MVCC Emergency Alert messaging system found in your MyMV account. We use this system to alert everyone if we close or delay the opening and we also send an email, post it on the College web site and alert the local media.
- The Part-time TAP Award was instituted to provide State support for students who were eligible for TAP but enrolled for less the 12 credit hours in each semester. Any funding which benefits our part time students can aid in their completion of a degree and is intended to address some of the financial burden.

BENEFITS

- a) Part-time TAP is a grant. Grant funds are not required to be paid back to a lender.
- b) The value of the award is based upon the number of credit hours the student enrolls for in each semester. Example: a student who is full time (12 credits) may be eligible for an award of \$1000. As a part-time student who is taking 6 credit hours they can receive 50% of the award. At 9 credits, 75% of the award, at 11, 91.67%. As the student increases their credit hours, the award is increased. This may encourage a student to enroll for more credit hours in each semester since the cost of tuition is off set by the value of the grant.
- c) Student can apply for the award with the FAFSA Application. No separate application is required.
- d) There have been 112 students who have benefitted from part-time TAP this fall. That amounts to over \$101,000 of additional benefit in awards that ranged from \$125 to \$2,151 per student and for this year, those are students that we might not have enrolled without this as part-time tap did not come into play until after students were here and registered.

CHALLENGES

- a) Student must initially be enrolled part time. If the student is enrolled fulltime and then drops down to part time prior to the census date, the student will lose the TAP Award and not be eligible for the Part Time TAP Award.
- b) Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is similar to full time SAP, thus making completion of SAP more difficult. Why? - Part of the SAP equation is that a student must complete a percentage of their enrolled classes. Therefore, at the end of the 2nd semester, the student must have completed at least 75% of their class work. If I am a PT student taking 6 credit hours, I must complete 100% of the class work. If I only complete 1 out of the 2 classes, I would have only completed 50% of the class work for this semester in question and will not be eligible for TAP in future semesters. SAP does not adjust for part-time TAP. In other words, the same academic eligibility rules apply.
- c) Based upon an initial analysis, higher income families are taking advantage of the award. This is because they are getting additional assistance that they were not previously eligible for before. In the past a family (student) may have taken a loan to cover the expense. Now with part-time TAP, there are more grant funds available. The grant was, however, announced as a way for low-income families to attend college. Based upon our student population, it is not. It is the higher income students or families who are benefiting this fall.
- d) If student will receive an Employee Tuition Benefit through the employer, the PT TAP will be adjusted or cancelled as TAP student cannot have a duplicate of benefits.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Reynolds, VP for Student Services
Tom Squires, VP for Administrative Services
Lew Kahler, Ed.D., VP for Learning and Academic Affairs