

**MVCC College Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**  
2:30pm WH255

**Attendance**

**Present:** C. Albrecht, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, K. Cordary, S. Crocker, S. Cummings, S. Dar, H. Doty, N. Evanoff, S. Frisbee, R. Golden, C. Hendricks, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kuczynski, S. McCall, S. McManus, K. McNamara, A. Miller, C. Miller, R. Miller, A. Nolan, A. Roy–Small, S. Selden, F. Vellone, J. Wilkie, L. Williams, and R. Wittenberg

**Student Senators:** Y. Naruse, M. Stevens

**Absent/Excused:** M. Faitell, D. Head, S. McGovern, M. McHarris, M. Parry, A. Sandstrom, S. Silverman, D. Stefanovich, C. VanNamee, R. VanWagoner, and J. Wilcox

**Call to Order**

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 2:36 pm.

**Approval of the December and January Minutes**

The minutes from the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved (K. McNamara, S. Cummings) (25, 0, 1).

The minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved (R. Wittenberg, S. Crocker) (27, 0, 0).

**Student Congress Report | Y. Naruse**

Y. Naruse shared that Student Congress meets each Thursday at 3:30pm in ACC 116. Maya Stevens is the Program Board director and Justin Kobler is the Student Trustee. There are two vacancies (Utica Vice President and Treasurer) that will be determined at the next meeting. The recent Club Day was successful.

Y. Naruse also shared updates from the SUNY Student Assembly, including a proposal to support the Empire State Community College workforce guarantee and a resolution with unanimous support from across all 64 SUNY schools to advance a proposal for the enhancement of students' experiences and opportunities. Y. Naruse is also working on a proposal with the SUNY Student Assembly for equitable, reliable, and sustainable funding. Those with guidance regarding which resources and services need more support at MVCC should email Y. Naruse at [scpresident@mvcc.edu](mailto:scpresident@mvcc.edu).

## Heart of the Hawk & Pride of the Hawk Awards | L. Kahler

L. Kahler presented the awards for the Heart of the Hawk and the Pride of the Hawk.

- The **Heart of the Hawk** was awarded to Melissa Barlett.
- The **Pride of the Hawk** was awarded to Kathleen Bouse.

R. VanWagoner was unable to be present but shared his congratulations to both winners.

## Old Business

### Committees and Councils Taskforce Recommendations | S. Frisbee

The Taskforce has presented at Senate, Faculty Caucus, and Administrators Meetings, and will meet with the Cabinet and Student Congress next week. Significant feedback has been shared with the Taskforce and, as a result, they would like time to incorporate all the feedback into their work before presenting a motion to vote at the March meeting.

Senators divided into groups to respond to three questions prepared by the Taskforce to assist them with their work. The current recommendations, along with the Senate by-laws regarding committees, were also shared. The groups' written responses were then collected for the Taskforce to incorporate into their work moving forward.

## New Business

### Draft MVCC Brand Policy | A. Smajic

A. Smajic is seeking feedback on the draft Brand Policy, which seeks to protect logos, words, and acronyms trademarked by the College. The policy has been discussed at Cabinet, and the marketing team will continue to solicit feedback over the next couple of weeks.

The policy will include the Brand Style Guide, which includes guidance and regulations regarding use of the College's colors, logo, and seal. The goal is to ensure that official social media accounts, student clubs, and other official uses of MVCC brand materials are consistent and do not violate trademarks and messaging guidelines. The College does not control unofficial social media accounts, but they monitor those of which they are aware.

## Chairperson's Report | C. Miller

C. Miller welcomed M. Stevens to the Student Congress Executive Team. She then shared that the EIT Ad Hoc committee will need a new co-chair and will share an update once a new co-chair has been identified. The FCCC Wellness Check Report has arrived and will be discussed in future meetings. The Senate Advisory is also reviewing the Senate By-Laws and senators are encouraged to review the by-laws and share their thoughts.

As a reminder, C. Miller shared that she regularly meets with the President, now all three vice-presidents, the chair of Faculty Caucus, the chair of the Senate Committee Taskforce, and the Student Congress Executive Board.

## Vice Presidents' Report | E. Abreu, L. Kahler, T. Squires

Highlights from the conversation about the Vice Presidents' Report (full report attached) include the following:

- **FAFSA Changes** – not as substantial as we were initially led to believe
- **Parking Lot** – a concern was shared regarding a steep angle near a grate in the Jorgenson parking lot. T. Squires will investigate.
- **Flyer about Academic Advantage Pack** – was created by D. Del Giudice and was shared at Student Congress. The flier will be used in the future to inform students.

## FCCC Report | A. Miller

A. Miller shared that the SUNY Taskforce on Transfer has published an interim report that was sent to the Chancellor's office, and has not yet been widely distributed. One possible suggestion is that transfer pathways should view only core courses, not all courses required for a major. Non-STEM majors would have a maximum of 4 required courses for their major while STEM-related majors might have as many as 6 required courses. A. Miller would appreciate feedback from those in major transfer pathways.

There are training opportunities being offered by FCCC (including the UDL training J. Ireland recently shared with faculty) that can be found on the Center of Professional Development Website: <https://system.suny.edu/suny-cpd/>. The FCCC Plenary will be held in April, and faculty are encouraged to share their questions and concerns with A. Miller beforehand.

## Faculty Caucus Report | S. Dar

S. Dar reported on the discussions held at the last Faculty Caucus Meeting, including the following topics:

- a Religious Exemption Policy that is currently being developed in T. Marshall's office
- the holistic supports provided by the SSAs
- the recommendations from the Taskforce on Senate Committees

The next meeting of the Faculty Caucus will be held in two weeks via Teams. Those with suggested topics for discussion should email S. Dar.

## Questions & Open Forum

There were no questions asked or issues raised in the Open Forum.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.

### Next Meetings & Routing Sheet Information

The Next Regular Senate Meeting will be: **Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM via Zoom.**

The next Senate Advisory Routing Sheet for applicable Agenda item proposals is **due: Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The next Senate Advisory Meeting will be **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2:30 PM via Teams.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Radlowski

# President's Report to College Senate

February 6, 2024

Mohawk Valley Community College

## Budget Development for 2024-25

With enrollment up last fall and this spring above conservative budget projections for this current year, we are in a more positive fiscal position than we've seen in years. However, MVCC has the third lowest ranking among the 30 SUNY community colleges in terms of our fund balance reserve as a percentage of our total operating budget. This means that we need to build our fund balance up to further strengthen the college's financial position to minimize the impact of future fiscal disruptions. Budget development has begun for next year and we'll be scheduling our annual Campus Conversations regarding the budget for the week after spring break in March.

## Governance Review

Thank you to the task force on the review of our governance structure and to everyone who has engaged in the conversation over the past few months. I know these are not easy conversations and I am so proud of our collective ability to even have the conversations, leave alone what I trust will be a thoughtful set of recommendations. Hopefully, one indirect outcome of the process is the understanding that once changes have been implemented, we can revisit structures, systems, and processes, as needed in the future and don't have to wait decades to conduct a comprehensive review all at once. More directly, I'm optimistic about the possibility of having a more efficient governance structure that allows the college to continue adapting quickly to changes in our external environment while maintaining a robust environment for effective governance.

## KPI: "MVCC is committed to student success."

The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to assess various measures of student success include several metrics as summarized in the following narrative. It's important to note that these data represent the entering students cohorts of the pandemic in fall 2020 and fall 2021.

- **Graduation rates - 2 and 3 year:** The two-year graduation rate (based on the IPEDS cohort definition) increased from 24% to 25% from the previous year and more than doubled since the entering cohort of 2011, increasing from 12% to 25%. The three-year graduation rate increased from 23% to 33% from the entering cohort of 2011 to 2015 and has plateaued between 33% and 35% in the past four years – declining from 34% to 33% for the most recent cohort.
- **Average credit hours at graduation:** Based on the IPEDS cohort, the average credits at graduation have declined from the class of 2011 (67.6 credits) to 2022 (63.5) for associate degree recipients and has remained very stable for certificate recipients (34 credits). Supplemental data for all students (not just the IPEDS

cohort) show that the average credit hours at graduation have declined from 83 in 2019 to 71 in 2023, which is up from 68 for the 2022 graduating class.

- **Early momentum indicators 12/semester & 30 annually in 1st year:** Based on the VFA cohort, 41% of students complete 12 credits in their first semester and 30+ credits in their first year compared to 28% of all other VFA college participants. This trend is fairly consistent over the past three years.
- **Gateway momentum** - college level math/English in first year: We experienced a slight decline in the percentage of students that completed college-level English and math in their first year from 2020 to 2021.
- **Program credit momentum-9 program credits in the first year:** In Fall of 2021, exactly 50% of first-time students earned nine or more credit hours in their program of study in their first year. That metric increased to 64% in Fall 2022 and further increased to 72% in Fall 2023 (including Spring 2024 registrations).

# Vice-Presidents' Report

February 6, 2024

Mohawk Valley Community College

- **FAFSA Simplification** is in full effect with new shorter FAFSA form. SSAs and the Financial Aid Office are available to answer any questions.
- Vanessa Cole started in the **Neurodiversity specialist role** of the Office of Accessibility Resources last semester and is available to assist our students.
- The **Behavioral Evaluation Response Team (BERT)** members presented to the School of Humanities to promote understanding about student development, student support, and restorative interventions beyond conduct. We are available to present to any other School interested.
- The **Fashion Design Program** as proposed by the School of Art has been approved by State Ed and SUNY with a Fall 2025 start date.
- We are in the process of filling out the applications and other requirements for **Second Chance Pell**, this allows for the use of Title IV Funds in Prison Education and will allow us to expand prison education offerings from Marcy Correctional Facility into Midstate and Mohawk Correctional Facilities-both of which are located in Oneida County.
- Ed Tech and IT continue to collaborate to ensure that **Brightspace rosters** are up to date. Unfortunately, we have found that not all the students that dropped, or were deregistered from courses, were automatically removed from Brightspace course rosters. Norma and Tabbi are removing students from course rosters when they receive a report of a student being on a Brightspace roster but not on the instructor roster as shown in MyMV until we can resolve the issue. Any Brightspace issues should be sent to Tabbi and Norma via [online@mvcc.edu](mailto:online@mvcc.edu) so that they can address them.
- To **increase student engagement with the Learning Commons**, all on-campus CF100 instructors will bring their students for a tour, while online sections will incorporate our informational materials about the Learning Commons into their course sites.
- Last fall, in collaboration with college counselors and Human Services faculty, the Learning Commons launched a **Peer Support program**. The primary goal is to provide a confidential listening service by fellow students, fostering a supportive campus community. Over the winter break, we refined the Peer Support program and expanded its availability to all students. One-on-one appointments, lasting up to 40 minutes in a private office, can be booked a week in advance through the Learning Commons website. To raise awareness of this support, peer support student assistants will visit each CF 100 section and inform students about it.
- In collaboration with Amanda Miller and Devin Sonne, the Learning Commons will be offering five **study sessions every week for students enrolled in CH141 classes**. Sessions are scheduled based on students' availability. The instructors will create worksheets for these sessions and strongly encourage their students to attend at least

one session per week. The objective of these sessions is to offer additional support to students in this challenging course and to connect them with the Learning Commons. We piloted this initiative last semester and have refined it for this semester.

- Danielle Del Giudice created **flyer for Auxiliary Services** that gives information on the Academic Advantage Pack. A copy is attached. This was sent to all students, faculty and staff who are teaching classes, Student Support Advisors and some other interested staff. Thanks Danielle!
- Late Breaking News: the **elevator in the ACC Building** has been shut down pending repair. More details to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Esmilda Abreu  
Tom Squires  
Lew Kahler