MVCC College Senate Meeting

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

2:30pm Theater

Attendance

Present

E. Brindisi	E. Bush	K. Cordary	S. Crocker	S. Dar
H. Doty	N. Evanoff	M. Faitell	S. Frisbee	R. Golden
D. Head	C. Hendricks	R. Huyck	J. Ireland	M. Kuczynski
S. McGovern	M. McHarris	S. McManus	K. McNamara	A. Miller
C. Miller	R. Miller	A. Nolan	M. Parry	A. Roy–Small
S. Selden	C. VanNamee	R. VanWagoner	F. Vellone	J. Wilkie
R. Wittenberg				

Student Senators

S. Nakamura	M. Stevens	M. Bi

Absent/Excused

T. Burke	S. Cummings	T. Locke	A. Sandstrom	S. Silverman
L. Warring	J. Wilcox	L. Williams		

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Regular & Special May Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the May 7th meeting were approved (S. McGovern, M. Kuczynski) (30, 0, 0). The minutes from the May 13th meeting were also approved (R. Wittenberg, E. Brindisi) (31,0,0).

Student Congress Report

S. Nakamura

S. Nakamura introduced the officers of Student Congress and stated that he, M. Stevens, and M. Bi will attend Senate meetings. At the last meeting of the Student Congress, they announced committee recruitments and D. Almleaf was unanimously approved as the Vice-President of the Utica campus. Recent and upcoming events include Hawk Fest, Club Day (September 5th), and a hypnotist on August 29th.

Old Business

By–Laws Appendix One & Article 3 Revisions

Senate Advisory reviewed the comments made from the breakout groups and made updates to the language in the by–laws, including the following revision to Article 3:

Former	Revision
3.2.6 Attend any Senate sponsored Open Forums 3.2.7 Be willing to serve on Senate-related committees.	3.2.6 Be willing to collaborate with other Senators to continue the work of Senate, including joining ad hoc committees, workgroups, or taskforces.

Additional changes were made to statements 3 and 7 of Appendix One to clarify the language.

New Business

New Year Senator Check–In

On behalf of Senate Advisory, S. McManus shared a form with senators as a way of checking-in at the start of this year. Senators completed the form and discussed their results.

Updates to Title IX Policies & Procedures

J. DeWeerth shared that there are new Title IX policies due to federal regulations. The primary changes include:

- more inclusive language
- responsible employees are required to direct students who disclose a pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition to the recourses available at the College
- a return to a single–investigative model

Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policies Revised

A. Nolan reported on changes to the Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment policies, driven by changes to Title VI earlier this year. Highlights from the conversation include:

- Ancestry and ethnic characteristics are now included in the policies
- Definitions that were previously missing have been included
- Complies with federal laws and executive orders

- o Wider scope now includes characteristics such as citizenship, limited English proficiency, and income level
- o A section on First Amendment considerations was included

S. Crocker (S. McManus) moved to endorse these policies, and the motion carried (30, 0, 0).

Information Security Policy & Procedures Update

A. Nolan

Language was added based on the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (an American law) and the General Data Protection Regulation (a European Union law) to protect consumer financial information. Physical and electronic safeguards are in place, including a risk-assessment plan. There is now a process for those who wish to delete or correct their information, and Marketing is drafting a 1-page document to show how one can safe–guard their information.

A motion to endorse (K. Cordary, A. Roy–Small) passed (29, 0, 0).

MVCC Plastics Policy and Procedures

A. Nolan

In line with New York State environmental rules, SUNY has required Colleges create a new policy to phase out the use of single–use plastics, including straws, balloons, and water bottles. The College will be replacing single–use plastics with alternatives wherever possible, with exemptions for medical and accessibility needs.

Some questions and concerns discussed included:
- o We are likely to see fewer garbage cans in offices to reduce the use of plastic garbage bags
- o It is uncertain at this point whether compostable receptacles will be used on campus, but it is worth investigating
- o Plastic materials used for classes – such as plastic gloves or balloons for physics labs – will be exempt.

S. Crocker moved (M. Kuczynski second) to endorse the policy (30, 0, 0).

MVCC Transportation Policy and Procedures

A. Nolan worked with athletics, public safety, and others to create guidelines for the use of College-related vehicles. Only authorized drivers will be able to use vehicles owned, leased, or rented by the College. To become an authorized driver, employees must go to Public Safety to complete a form and have their information checked by the License Event Notification Service (LENS) program.

The policy and procedures were unanimously endorsed by the Senate (N. Evans, S. McGovern) (30, 0, 0).

Chairperson's Report

C. Miller commented that the Senate Advisory will be reviewing the list of senate responsibilities on the website, and she encouraged senators to connect with their constituents when the Senate agenda is distributed, especially if there is an upcoming vote.

C. Miller shared the following Senate Goals for this year, which were discussed at a recent Senate Advisory Retreat:

1. Complete Governance 2.0 work that remains from governance review recommendations in the previous year. (i.e. committee overhaul)
2. Refine by-laws to finalize a few updates, including clarifying the extent to which Robert's Rules will be used in Senate and committee meetings.
3. Develop more intentional mentoring process for new Senators.
4. Complete discussion on FCCC Wellness Check recommendations.

President's Report

R. VanWagoner recently emailed an update to the College and will aim to send his updates about a week before Senate meetings in the future.

Vice Presidents' Report

L. Kahler, T. Squires

There were no questions at this time. The full report is attached.

FCCC Report

A. Miller reported that the new FCCC president officially started as of July 1st. A. Miller is still serving as the Academic Committee Chair and M. Barlett is in a new role as the

special assistant to the Executive Team for FCCC. Most urgent is a news release from the Chancellor's Office, concerning a new general education core competency.

Faculty Caucus Report

S. Dar shared that the meetings this semester will be held on September 17th, October 22nd, November 19th, and December 10th on Teams. The Caucus Advisory group includes D. Sonne, C. Miller, E. Bush, E. Brindisi, R. Wittenberg, and K. Raab. The DEI Advisory group includes G. Melendez, M. Barlett, and T. Marshall. A. Radlowski will serve on the Calendar Committee. The Student Surveys Workgroup and the AI Workgroup presented their reports at the last meeting of the Caucus.

Questions and Open Forum

There were no questions or topics brought up at the Open Forum.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.

Next Senate Meeting: Tuesday, October 1st at 2:30PM via Teams

Senate Advisory Routing Sheet due: Tuesday, September 17th

Next Senate Advisory Meeting: Tuesday, September 24th 2:30PM via Teams

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski

President's Report

Core Workshop

Cabinet decided to pause the annual Core Workshop this year. Without a clear and compelling topic, the idea of pausing seemed like a good idea. As things have evolved, we are exploring the possibility of creating a "Community of Practice" regarding artificial intelligence. I am currently working with Todd McLees, our AI keynote speaker at Fall Opening to develop a structure where he and members of his team would provide a cadence of training and forums to develop AI capacity with a critical mass of early adopters. Stay tuned.

Data Calls

Similarly, look for an invitation to attend a virtual "Data Call." As I briefly mentioned at Fall Opening, I'd like to begin a regular cadence of data calls to engage others in looking at data from different perspectives. Think of it as a more focused and scaled-down version of our annual Data Summit in January. I don't have all the details yet, but I hope that you strongly consider attending when you receive the invitation.

Accreditation

It's still early in the process, but we are making preparations for our continuing accreditation evaluation site visit that will happen in March of 2027. It seems like a long way away, but the process to conduct a comprehensive institutional self-study is rigorous and will likely involve 30-50% of us in some manner. I'm excited to announce that Anne Nolan and Ross Wittenberg have accepted the invitation to serve as Self-Study Co-Chairs to lead the process. They'll receive training this fall, and we'll solidify our self-study committee membership (7 standards committees plus a steering committee) this spring. The 2025-26 academic year will be our big year for the committees to complete our self-evaluation that will be finalized in the fall of 2026 for the spring 2027 visit. If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please contact Jill Heintz, jheintz@mvcc.edu.

Vice-Presidents' Report

o CITE website has been updated with searchable teaching practice bank and calendar of professional development events: https://www.mvcc.edu/teaching/

o Newest edition of the Library Faculty News is available! https://mvcc.libguides.com/faculty/newsletter

o Forty-four student-athletes from Mohawk Valley Community College have been named to the 2023-2024 National Junior Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Academic Teams in recognition of their academic success. Those named to the All-Academic First Team achieved a GPA of 4.00; those named to the Second Team earned a GPA of 3.80-3.99, and those named to the Third Team earned a GPA of 3.60-3.79. Congratulations to these outstanding student athletes.

o Agile Brain is a state based psychometric assessment designed to help students to understand the emotional content that they are experiencing by allowing them to identify the emotion and the intensity of that emotion. We believe that this gives our students a unique opportunity to better understand their emotional needs and will effectively serve as an early intervention tool that empowers students to access the appropriate campus resources and other critical services on campus. Agile Brain assesses what experiences our students want more or less of on foundational, experiential and aspirational levels. Agile Brain provides insights into how effectively a person can perceive, understand, and manage emotions in various contexts. It is particularly useful in leadership development, team building, and personal growth and with the assistance of a trained practitioner, can help to provide actionable feedback to foster emotional resilience and adaptability in both personal and professional settings.

o We will provide training for our high-touch services such as Counseling Services, Holistic Student Support, Career Development and Accessibility Resources to allow for more touchpoints that can help students understand their assessment results and to get to the appropriate services based on their individual needs. We plan to embed the assessment early in the student's educational journey, possibly introducing this as part of the intake and onboarding process. With the understanding that the transition to college often elicits intense emotions (often associated with significant life changes) whether they are a traditional student living in the residence halls or non-

traditional student that is balancing many responsibilities, we understand that helping our students understand and manage this emotional content is critical to their success. Agile Brain can be used at various points throughout the semester to track personal growth and resilience. The intent is that supporting students through their use of Agile Brain, they will be able to better name and understand their emotions.

o   If you have not done so already, please visit the Department of Public Safety to obtain a parking sticker for your vehicle. You will need to bring your vehicle registration with you when picking up your sticker. Depending on the level of un-registered vehicles parking in the restricted lots (Professional Association lot, Administrator's lot, Jorgensen Center lot), the DPS Officers may be issuing warning tickets.

o   Please be advised that the Do Not Disturb function on the phones located in classrooms and labs will be disabled. We recently became aware this feature has been activated on some of the phones. These phones are a critical part of the overall safety program at MVCC in situations where we need to issue an MV Alert. If you have problems with the phone ringing during class or labs please let us know and we will do what we can to fix the problem. While an occasional wrong number may occur, if it is a regular occurrence such as a spam call we may be able to make it stop without disabling the ring feature on the phone

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy VanWagoner
Tom Squires
Lew Kahler