

**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 4:03 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, September 16, 2024.

**Members Present**

Frank Dubeck, Jr.  
Wendy Waters  
Anthony (Tony) Colón  
David Mathis  
Camille Kahler  
Anna D'Ambrosio  
William S. Calli, Jr.  
Student Trustee Alex Dunckel

**Members Excused**

Elaine Falvo  
Dana Jerrard

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair Waters welcomed everyone to the September board meeting and expressed gratitude to Jill Heintz for her assistance in light of Gloria's absence due to illness.

A motion to pull Item 9f from the Consent Agenda for discussion was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee Tony Colón. Unanimously approved.

Discussion: Chair Waters asked the Board to consider Consent Agenda Item 9f resolving that Karey Pine be appointed as the Vice President for Student Affairs.

A motion to approve Item 9f of the Consent Agenda and accept Karey Pine's appointment as Vice President for Student Affairs was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by David Mathis. Unanimously approved.

Karey Pine introduced herself and the Board welcomed her to her new position.

Chair Waters continued to report a few highlights from across the College since the last board meeting as follows: the first cohort of students completed their internship with the New York Power Authority last month. The cohort consisted of twelve (12) P-Tech students from Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES and MVCC who took part in this paid learning and working experience focused on college attainment and the development of skills that translate directly into competitive careers in New York State's growing clean energy industry.

Chair Waters also announced that the marketing team has compiled videos showcasing the success stories of recent graduates, which will help highlight post-graduate outcomes as a focus for Community College 3.0 and the Board of Trustees. The video of MVCC Alumnus, Aman

Awais, Systems Engineer with Plug Power, was shown to the Board.

Additionally, the upcoming year's Board committee composition was distributed and feedback was encouraged if Trustees had any questions or changes. Chair Waters concluded her report by recognizing Trustee Frank Dubeck for his dedication and leadership during his term as Board Chair.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Vice President Squires explained that the monthly financial statements are not yet available due to the ongoing closing of the books in preparation for the annual audit. The auditors will be conducting their fieldwork on campus during the last week of October and into the first week of November. A meeting of the Board Audit and Finance committee will be organized to review the priorities and scope of work with the auditors ahead of their fieldwork. He then went to discuss the financial status of the fall semester, noting a slight increase over last year and a slight improvement over budget. Further, the Money and Compliance workgroup has taken on the task of performing a comprehensive review of the College's deregistration process to potentially improve it. Vice President Squires went on to remind the Board that ASC will hold its first board meeting of the semester tomorrow, Tuesday, September 17. He concluded his report by recognizing Anne Nolan for her work in updating the Transportation and Use of College Vehicles policy that appears as a discussion item later on the agenda. The revisions to this policy were a result of Anne's participation in GKG's Strategic Risk Management School, an eight-month school that takes a deep dive into risk management.

### **4. Student Trustee Report**

Chair Waters welcomed the new Student Trustee to the Board. Student Trustee Alex Dunkel introduced himself, sharing details about his background and role as an RA in the dorms and his progress in his radiology program. He presented updates from Student Congress, including successful events, issues addressed, and his efforts to connect with student leaders.

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

#### Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience reported on the MV Gives campaign in support of our planned dental hygiene clinic. Gifts can be made online between now and Friday, September 20. The Institutional Advancement office is working on our second annual Community Convening event coming up on October 2. The Community Convening will focus on Embracing AI to Promote Human Flourishing with an interactive workshop on generative AI for local community leaders presented by Todd McLees of HumanSkills.AI.

She continued her report by reviewing upcoming events that include the following:

- Wilcox Presidential & Exceptional Scholarship Brunch, October 14 at 11am
- MVCC Hall of Fame Reception & Ceremony, November 7 at 5:30pm
- Board Holiday Gathering, December 3 at 6pm

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience concluded her report with a Foundation financial update stating that the Foundation has approximately \$9.9 Million in the Strategic Financial Services portfolio. Upcoming Foundation meetings include:

- Audit, Finance & Investment Committee – October 3
- Foundation Executive Committee – October 16
- Nominating & Governance Committee – October 30
- MVCC Foundation Board – October 31

### ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colon announced that today kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month and highlighted the importance of celebrating and the need for further research and support systems to ensure the success of underrepresented students in higher education. MVCC continues to be at the forefront of these practices and with the Boards support, he will strive to foster this dialogue at the local, state, and national level. To continue this effort, Trustee Colón went on to announce his candidacy for the Northeast Regional Director position at the upcoming ACCT Leadership Congress in October. He has served in this capacity to fill a mid-term vacancy and will now be running for his first full term.

Trustee Frank Dubeck sits on the ACCT Audit and Finance Committee. Each year, committee members need to have the endorsement of their local Boards and a letter of support to continue their service. Trustee Dubeck is interested in continuing his service on the Audit and Finance Committee and asked the Board for their support.

A motion to endorse Trustee Frank Dubeck's seat on the ACCT Audit and Finance Committee was made by Trustee William S. Calli and seconded by David Mathis. Unanimously approved.

Board Chair Waters will prepare a letter of support to communicate confirming the Board's endorsement of Trustee Dubeck's continued seat on the ACCT Audit and Finance Committee.

Chair Waters continued to highlight NYCCT's advocacy efforts, including meetings with elected officials and the Head of the NYS Department of Budget. Next week, NYCCT will be meeting with the NYS Executive Office.

Chair Waters went on to discuss Consent Agenda Item 9e and read the resolution to the Board for the record. All thirty community college Boards have been asked to adopt a similar resolution and it is upon the recommendation of Board Chair Waters that the MVCC Board of Trustees adopt the same. Further questions and discussion will be heard during the discussion item later on the agenda. Furthering advocacy efforts, Alen and his team's marketing efforts, including a video promotion the NYCCT's budget request, were commended.

### SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner noted that the Chancellor will attend the upcoming NYCCT Annual Conference, followed by a SUNY Presidents' Meeting at the end of October.

Chair Waters expressed concerns about the potential loss of a key advocate for community colleges within the Chancellor's Office. She went on to discuss importance of presenting a unified message from the Presidents and Boards of Trustees.

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

President VanWagoner will be attending the Governor's announcement of a \$200 million dollar investment in the advanced manufacturing partnership through ON-RAMP. MVCC is very well positioned to co-lead the regional effort for this ON-RAMP initiative. President VanWagoner shared the disappointment of the news that the Rome YMCA Project will not proceed which would have been a huge asset to MVCC's Rome Campus.

Expanding upon the President's Friday Focus around our partnership with SUNY Poly, Trustee Mathis expressed an interest to have a Board presence at one of the next joint MVCC/SUNY Poly partnership meetings. President VanWagoner will discuss this with President Soboyejo.

He then went on to ask Senate Chair Christine Miller for her Senate Report.

### College Senate

Senate Chair Christine Miller shared her takeaways from a recent one-day FCCC campus governance leaders meeting in Albany. Working on a project based on the idea of 'strategic doing' which involves identifying what strong and engaged governance looks like. The goal is to develop a governance training that can be tailored to each institution, initially geared towards faculty and staff, but eventually extending to other groups. The training will be interactive and available both virtually and in person. Dove tails with things that came up in the Wellness Check and further fosters our efforts to strengthen shared governance and engage our institution. The group will come together again at the October Plenary to continue progress on this project.

President VanWagoner continued his report by reviewing this month Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of MVCC has adequate resources to fulfill its mission. He went on to discuss the college's financial situation, noting the significant deficit year the college faced in FY21 and highlighting how the college moved through that period and bolstered itself to be in its best financial position. President VanWagoner commended the work of his Cabinet and the engagement and leadership of the Board of Trustees that helped get us to this position. President VanWagoner expressed optimism about the college's financial outlook for FY24.

## 7. **Vice President Reports and Spotlight:**

The Board had no questions on the written reports from the Vice Presidents. Vice President Tom Squires presented and shared his takeaways from the economic impact study conducted by Lightcast, which focused on data from 2022-2023 to determine the economic value of the SUNY Community colleges individually and collectively. The study analyzed the economic impact of operations spending, construction spending, student spending, and alumni impact along with the return of investment from the perspectives of the student, taxpayer, and social perspective.

## 8. **Discussion Items:**

**Consent Agenda Item 9e: Supervisory Authority of the Board of Trustees over the President of Mohawk Valley Community College Resolution**

Chair Water provided background into need and creation of the resolution. A motion to move Item 9e as an action item was made by William S. Calli and seconded by David Mathis. Unanimously approved.

Discussion continued. Trustee Kahler recommended the resolution be amended as follows: The subject of the Resolution should read Authority of the Board of Trustees over the President of Mohawk Valley Community College

The last paragraph to be amended as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the MVCC presidential selection, performance appraisal, performance evaluation or performance review, and terms and conditions of their employment contract can only be influenced by, altered, or amended via negotiations between the president and the Board of Trustees at MVCC.

A motion to accept Consent Agenda Item 9e as amended above was made by William S. Calli and seconded by David Mathis. Unanimously approved.

**First Reading of Board Policies: Elimination of Single Use Plastics and Preferences for Durable and Reusable Alternatives; Transportation and Use of College Vehicles; Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment (Synonymous with Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment); Information Security**

A first reading of the above policies were presented to the Board. The Board had no further questions or discussion around the proposed policies. The policies will move to the Consent Agenda at the next Board meeting.

**9. Consent Agenda**

*Attachment a.* Minutes of August 19, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting

*Attachment b.* Treasurer's Report

*Attachment c.* Policy Revision: 3015.Title IX Grievance

*Attachment d.* Naming of Dental Hygiene Radiology Lab in the Plumley Complex on the Rome Campus: The Henry Schein Cares Radiology Lab

*Attachment e.* Supervisory Authority of the Board of Trustees over the President of Mohawk Valley Community College

*Attachment f.* Karey Pine, Vice President of Student Affairs

*Attachment g.* Brandy Gray, Coordinator of Research and Analysis

*Attachment h.* Michael Mihevc, Assistant Vice President of Learning and Academic Affairs

*Attachment i.* Amend Staffing Plan: Sheila Flihan, Assistant Vice President of Learning and Academic Affairs

*Attachment j.* Daniel Cretaro, Instructor for the School of Humanities

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a-9d and 9g-9j was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee William S. Calli. Unanimously approved.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee William S. Calli to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Unanimously approved.