

**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 on the Rome Campus in Plumley Complex, Room 150, Rome, New York was called to order at 3:48 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, March 17, 2025.

Members Present

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

Members Excused

Motion for an executive session to discuss legal matters was made by Trustee Anna D'Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee William Calli.

The Board of Trustees entered into executive session at 3:49 p.m.

Motion to end executive session and resume the Board meeting was made by Trustee David Mathis and seconded by Trustee William Calli.

The meeting reconvened at 4:01 p.m.

2. Chair's Report

Chair Waters welcomed everyone to the March Board of Trustees meeting, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to convene on the Rome Campus and to highlight recent achievements across the MVCC community.

The Chair began by recognizing MVCC's Men's Basketball team for their historic run, culminating in the College's first-ever NJCAA National Division III Championship title—earned with a final victory over fifth-ranked Herkimer College. This followed their third NJCAA Region III title earlier in the season.

The Bowling team was also commended for placing 14th out of 23 teams at the NJCAA National Championships, hosted by Erie Community College. In total, MVCC Athletics has captured four of eight possible NJCAA Region III Championships this academic year—an outstanding reflection of student-athlete talent and commitment.

Congratulations were extended to the 18 graduates of the Mohawk Valley Police Academy, representing six local law enforcement agencies. These new officers will be joining departments in Oneida County, Rome, Utica, Oneida, Lowville, and DeWitt.

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) was also recognized for strong student progress, with a 4.7% increase in those achieving satisfactory progress and an 8.2% decline in those performing unsatisfactorily—reflecting positive momentum for EOP participants and staff.

The Chair concluded by celebrating the College's first-ever musical theater production, *Be More Chill*, which drew 75–100 attendees at each of its three performances—a milestone for MVCC's growing arts programs.

These successes reflect the continued dedication of MVCC students, faculty, and staff in fulfilling the College's mission of excellence.

3. Treasurer's Report

Vice President Squires presented the financial reports. Actual revenue is currently tracking approximately 3% below budget projections, primarily due to the delay in billing for Spring Chargebacks, which are scheduled for March. These chargebacks are expected to total approximately \$2 million and will significantly impact revenue once processed.

Expenses have increased compared to the previous year, driven largely by higher enrollment. As enrollment grows, corresponding increases in operational and personnel costs follow. Wages have risen in accordance with both enrollment and contractual obligations. Fringe benefit costs are also notably higher, resulting from the College's transition to a self-insured health insurance plan in 2024. In contrast, January and February 2024 reflected lower costs under the previous fully insured model.

Additional highlights from the Business Office included the issuance of \$1,064,500 in student refund checks in March, with another round scheduled later in the month. The Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC) has been reimbursed \$600,000 for student fees, meal plans, and related expenses. The College currently holds \$15 million in staggered 6-month U.S. Treasury bills, ensuring one matures each month. These investments are yielding a 4.2% return and have generated over \$400,000 in interest income to date for the fiscal year.

Despite short-term revenue timing variances and increased expenditures, the College maintains a strong financial position, with anticipated chargeback revenue and investment income supporting ongoing stability.

4. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Alex Duncel provided an update on recent student engagement and campus life activities. Highlights included strong participation in events such as Iceless Ice Skating, Trivia Night, Hawks Got Talent, the Super Bowl Party, and the Chocolate Festival. Residence Council also hosted and sponsored several well-attended events.

Student Congress played a key role in organizing student support for the Men's Basketball team at the NJCAA National Championships, where MVCC secured the national title.

Additionally, several students from Student Congress and the Office of Student Activities recently returned from the national APCA (Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities) Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania. The event offered valuable opportunities for networking with peers from other institutions and connecting with entertainment and event vendors.

Student Trustee Dunckel also shared updates from the Student Trustee Idea Box. Among recent submissions was a request for outdoor benches with tables to support student study and collaboration. He is working with Vice President Tom Squires and Facilities Director Mike McHarris to explore feasible options. In response to additional student feedback, he is also collaborating with Public Safety to consider the installation of 'No Speeding' signs to promote campus safety.

5. Committee and Affiliation Reports

Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC)

ASC Board Liaison Trustee Elaine Falvo reported that the ASC Board met on March 6 to review the annual audit with representatives from D'Arcangelo & Co. The audit resulted in a clean opinion, with approximately \$1.8 million in accounts. The meeting concluded with a review of recommendations suggested by the auditors.

Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience shared that the MVCC Foundation's Spring Scholarship application deadline is April 1. Over the past five years, 24 new scholarship funds have been established, bringing the total to 140. The annual Scholarship Awards Dinner & Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 8 at 6:00 p.m.

The Foundation's Week of Giving (March 17–21) is underway, with a goal of raising \$25,000 in support of MVCC's FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics program. MVCC serves as the New York State headquarters for this national STEM initiative, supporting 120 teams and over 1,200 students statewide. Funds raised will enhance tournament technology, expand outreach, improve event experiences, and provide scholarships for FIRST alumni attending MVCC.

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience concluded her report with a Foundation financial update stating that the Foundation has approximately \$10,047,507 in the Strategic Financial Services portfolio. Upcoming Foundation meetings include:

- Audit, Finance & Investment Committee – April 2
- Executive Committee – April 9
- Nominating & Governance Committee – April 17
- Foundation Board Meeting – April 24

ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee David Mathis provided an update on the SUNY Vice Chancellor search. The committee has reviewed submitted applications and identified three candidates for continued consideration. The next meeting of the search committee is scheduled for April, at which time additional resumes will be reviewed and a final recommendation will be made to the Chancellor.

NYCCT Chair-Elect Wendy Waters announced that MVCC will host the NYCCT Spring Convening on Friday, April 25. The convening will include a governance coaching workshop and an advocacy roundtable with college presidents. Trustees and campus representatives are encouraged to attend.

The NYCCT nomination process is now open for the 2025 Awards Program. Honorees will be recognized during the 71st Annual NYCCT Conference, to be held September 10–12 in Saratoga Springs. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Chair-Elect Waters also reported that the NYCCT Executive Committee has contracted with an impact marketing firm to enhance NYCCT’s communications and visibility efforts. This includes development of branded content, a refreshed website, and a social media strategy to strengthen awareness and advocacy statewide. The first set of advocacy-focused articles is expected to be released next week.

Trustee Tony Colón concluded the report with updates from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), including highlights from the 2025 National Legislative Summit and NYCCT Legislative Breakfast in Washington, D.C., as well as key federal legislative developments that may impact community colleges.

Due to time considerations of our invited guests and speakers, the agenda was moved around to accommodate.

6. Discussion Item: FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics

The Board welcomed a local FIRST Tech team for a demonstration of their custom designed, built, program remote controlled, and autonomous metal robot. For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) is a national organization with affiliates in all 50 states, and MVCC is the affiliate headquarters for the New York Excelsior Region. MVCC's FIRST Tech Challenge programming creates leaders, innovators, visionaries, and change-makers. Teams compete with their custom designed, fabricated, and programmed robots in exciting challenges based on engineering principles, while documenting the entire process, challenges, and successes. They can also earn judged awards based on robot performance, innovation, design, mastering autonomous control through coding their robot’s movements, and mentorship from STEM professionals. Currently the MVCC NY Excelsior Region serves 120 teams in 55 counties that make up students from grades 6-12. There are 9 qualifying tournaments consisting of 24-28 teams per tournament and the year ends with a 32-team championship.

SUNY/NYCCAP

There was no SUNY/NYCCAP report due to time constraints.

7. President’s Report

President VanWagoner began his report by turning to the College Senate for an update. by asking for the College Senate report.

College Senate

College Senate Chair, Professor Christine Miller, shared progress on this year’s Senate goals, including ongoing work on by-laws, preparations for Senate elections, and the development of a

Senate assessment process. She also highlighted broader governance efforts, such as implementing a two-month cycle for items seeking Senate endorsement, improving communication between meetings, and encouraging feedback from constituents through their senators. Professor Miller concluded by noting that MVCC Senate representatives will attend the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) Spring 2025 Plenary, scheduled for April 3–5.

Following the Senate report, President VanWagoner provided a brief institutional update due to time constraints. He invited questions regarding this month’s Key Performance Indicator (KPI) data and noted that the narrative now includes pros and cons to offer a more reflective and balanced analysis.

8. Vice President Reports:

The Board had no questions regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. Vice President Pine provided a Rome Campus.

9. Consent Agenda

Attachment a. Minutes of January 22, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

Attachment b. Treasurer’s Report

Attachment c. Microcredential Proposal: Bookkeeping

Attachment d. Program Revision Proposal: Finance Certificate

Attachment e. Program Revision Proposal: Metal Fabrication A.O.S. Degree and Welding Certificate

Attachment f. Sabbatical Leave – Shahida Dar

Attachment g. Association of Mohawk Valley Administrators (AMVA) – Continuing Appointment
Salina Billins Director of Opportunity Programs

Attachment h. Professional Association (PA) – Career Appointments

Tabitha Carter Coordinator of Distributed Learning

Caitlyn Graham Senior Financial Aid Advisor

Amir Harbas Helpdesk Analyst

James Kelly Additive Manufacturing Specialist

Dean McCarthy Supervisor of Residence Hall Facilities

Michelle Sebastian Community Resource Specialist

Attachment i. Professional Association (PA) – Continuing Appointments

Claire Ehrlich Librarian & Assistant Professor

Michael Kuczynski Assistant Professor

Amanda Sandstrom Assistant Professor

Kenny Stover Assistant Professor

Frank Vellone Instructor

Attachment j. Kayleigh Sins, Health Professions Resource Specialist

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a–9j was made by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. Unanimously approved.