

**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 Stetson Boardroom, Payne Hall, Room 300, Utica, New York was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Waters on Monday, April 22, 2025.

**Members Present**

Wendy Waters  
Dana Jerrard  
Camille Kahler  
Elaine Falvo  
Frank Dubeck  
Anna D'Ambrosio  
Anthony (Tony) Colón (arrived 4:05 p.m.)  
David Mathis (arrived 4:10 p.m.)

**Members Excused**

William S. Calli, Jr.  
Student Trustee

**2. Chair's Report**

Chair Waters opened the April meeting by recognizing several recent achievements that reflect the strength and spirit of the MVCC community. The spring Open House led by the Admissions Office saw significant year-over-year growth, with 237 registrations (up 46.3%) and 196 attendees (up 51.9%). Students were honored at state and SUNY levels, including three All-New York State Academic Team inductees (Patrice Flowers, Hannah Gwozdz, Rinaldo Nelson) and two recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence (Alyssa Fitzpatrick and Haf Sar). MVCC placed second overall in the NYSMATYC Math League Contest, with student Carter Poland finishing third individually. The Aviation Maintenance Team placed 5th among 38 colleges and 21st overall at the MRO Americas Aerospace Maintenance Competition; student Railey Ehart earned the prestigious Phoebe Omlie Award. Chair Waters congratulated all students, faculty, and staff for their exceptional efforts and achievements.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Vice President Squires presented the financial reports. 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. He further went on to provide a budget update and reviewed the various scenarios being explored as the State budget becomes finalized. Vice President Squires concluded his report with an update on the College moving to a self-insured health insurance model.

**4. Student Trustee Report**

As the Student Trustee position is currently vacant, there was no Student Trustee Report for the April meeting.

**5. Vice President Reports and Academic Affairs Spotlight**

There were no questions from the Board regarding the written reports submitted by the Vice Presidents. Vice President Kahler recognized the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) student members in

attendance and introduced PTK Advisors Liz Doherty and Steve Frisbee to provide an overview of MVCC's Lambda Beta Chapter.

MVCC's PTK Lambda Beta Chapter currently has over 250 members and six active advisors. Students become eligible for membership by earning a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. The chapter is highly engaged in campus and community activities, including the Oneida County Intergenerational Clean-Up, organizing Red Cross blood drives, assisting with Open House events, Trick or Treat Street, and various other college functions.

The chapter also completes two annual hallmark projects:

- The College Project, which supports a campus-specific need; and
- The Honors in Action Project, which uses the theme "The Power of Stories" to identify a community need and respond through research-based storytelling and action.

The Lambda Beta Chapter attends both the New York State Annual Convention and the International PTK Convention. At this year's state convention, the chapter earned Five Star Chapter status and received several honors, including the Leadership Award, Community Service Award, Edgiest Chapter Award, and the Horizon Award for Advisor, presented to PTK Advisor Steve Frisbee. In addition, the chapter was recognized for having both the Most Distinguished Chapter Officer Team and the Most Distinguished Advisor Team.

At the International Convention, MVCC's chapter received the following accolades:

- Top 100 Distinguished Chapter
- Top 10 Honors in Action Project in Theme
- Top 35 Honors in Action Project Overall
- Distinguished Advisor Team Award

The Board of Trustees commended the students and advisors for their continued excellence and contributions to the college and broader community.

## **6. Committees and Affiliations Reports**

### Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC)

Vice President Squires reported that the ASC Board met on April 15. During the meeting, Barnes & Noble sales and commissions were reviewed, with sales down approximately 1% and commissions down \$1,000 compared to the previous year. The Board approved an amended agreement with food service vendor American Dining, which includes a revised commission structure, a \$10,000 catering budget for the College, complimentary meal vouchers, and a \$3,000 sponsorship of the MVCC Foundation Golf Tournament. The Board held a first reading of the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, with a vote scheduled for its next meeting on Friday, May 2.

### Dormitory Corporation (DC)

Chair Waters announced that the next DC meeting will be held on May 13.

## Foundation

Executive Director Deanna Ferro-Aurience shared several updates. The recent Week of Giving campaign in support of the FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics Program was a great success, surpassing its goal and raising \$25,560. These funds will support expanded access to robotics programming, equipment needs, and STEM education initiatives across the state. Scholarship applications for the spring cycle reached a record high, with 635 submissions from over 100 students. The General Scholarship Committee has completed its selections, with additional committees finalizing their reviews. Award notifications will be sent in the coming days, and the Scholarship Awards Dinner & Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the ACC Commons. Additionally, the Foundation has received \$205,148.22 to date from the estate of Judith N. Kelly, MVCC Class of 1959, with a final distribution expected by year-end.

Executive Director Ferro-Aurience concluded her report with a Foundation financial update stating that the Foundation has approximately \$9,817,804 in the Strategic Financial Services portfolio.

## ACCT/NYCCT

Trustee Tony Colón reported that April is Community College Month and noted that the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) continues to advocate for legislation supporting community colleges. Trustee Colón announced his intention to run for the position of ACCT National Board Secretary-Treasurer and will formally declare his candidacy by August 1, with campaigning to take place leading up to the election during the ACCT Leadership Congress in New Orleans, October 22–25. Registration for the Congress is now open, and Board members are encouraged to attend. Workshop proposals for the event are due by May 23.

NYCCT Chair-Elect Wendy Waters reminded the Board 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 participate.

The NYCCT 2025 Awards Program nomination process is now open, with honorees to be recognized during the 71st Annual NYCCT Conference, scheduled for September 10–12 in Saratoga Springs. The nomination deadline is Tuesday, June 10, 2025. NYCCT is also soliciting input for agenda topics for the conference, which will feature a revised format focused on interactive roundtable discussions. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Chair Waters also noted that NYCCT has begun sharing advocacy content on social media and encouraged trustees to follow the New York Community College Trustees online.

Trustee David Mathis provided an update on the SUNY Vice Chancellor search. The search committee conducted five Zoom meetings and partnered with a search firm that reached out to over 200 individuals. From 32 identified candidates, the pool was narrowed to 13, then to 6 finalists, with 3 candidates and 1 alternate ultimately recommended to the SUNY Chancellor.

## SUNY/NYCCAP

President VanWagoner reported that SUNY has implemented a requirement for weekly enrollment reporting, and the College is actively working to meet this directive by regularly

submitting MVCC's enrollment data. He also noted that the annual PTK All-New York Academic Awards Ceremony, organized by NYCCAP, will take place in Albany on April 26. MVCC has led the statewide coordination of this event for the past three years. President VanWagoner concluded by sharing that he plans to attend the NYCCAP Summer Retreat in June.

## **7. President's Report**

President VanWagoner shared that he attended a special announcement earlier in the day in Rome, where Chobani revealed plans to build a \$1.3 billion manufacturing facility in the city. The project is expected to bring 1,500 construction jobs to the region, in addition to permanent employment opportunities once the factory becomes operational. He noted the significant economic and community benefits this development will bring to the Rome area.

President VanWagoner also reported that bids have been released for the construction of the College's new Science & Technology (S&T) Building.

In reviewing this month's Key Performance Indicator—MVCC provides high-quality educational opportunities—he discussed the College's intention to implement a student satisfaction survey to be administered in non-SUNY survey years. This initiative is intended to provide more timely insight into the student experience and identify areas for continuous improvement. Notably, in the most recent SUNY Student Satisfaction Survey, MVCC saw increased or stable results across all four core measures since 2021. Among 30 SUNY community colleges, MVCC ranked in the top six, including 2nd for overall satisfaction and 3rd for students' likelihood to choose MVCC again.

### College Senate

College Senate Chair, Professor Christine Miller, provided an update on recent Senate activities and shared insights from the FCCC Plenary. She highlighted ongoing FCCC efforts to establish regional Campus Governance Leader Groups, designed to cluster the current seven regions into 4–5 cohorts to enhance peer support, strengthen understanding of shared governance, and foster broader engagement. Professor Miller also summarized key items from the April College Senate meeting, which included a first reading of proposed revisions to the Senate By-Laws, endorsement of the AI Taskforce's Guidelines for Ethical and Secure Usage of Generative Artificial Intelligence, and a first reading of the proposed Award of Academic Credit by Evaluation Assessment fee.

### FCCC Plenary

FCCC Delegate, Associate Professor Amanda Miller provided an update on the recent Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) Plenary. The event featured presentations and panel discussions with representatives from NYCCAP, NYCCT, SUNY Administration, the SUNY Chancellor, and CUNY/SUNY Student and Academic Affairs Officers. Associate Professor Miller shared highlights from her own presentation on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, which focused on connecting the dots between transfer pathways, student success metrics, economic impact, and the role of faculty. She concluded by outlining actionable steps delegates are encouraged to implement on their campuses, including promoting the recent FCCC resolution, fostering dialogue and community building, increasing faculty involvement in

curriculum development, and exploring the creation of an MVCC “fact book” to showcase local economic impact data.

## 8. Discussion Items

### **AI Taskforce: Guidelines for Ethical and Secure Usage of Generative Artificial Intelligence**

AI Taskforce Co-Chairs, Mary Jane Parry and Frank Vellone presented the work of the AI Taskforce and reviewed the Guidelines for Ethical and Secure Usage of Generative Artificial Intelligence that will help guide the College in the use of AI as it continues to advance and evolve.

### **Board Policy First Readings**

- a. Policy Revision: 1005. Meetings of the Board of Trustees
- b. New Board Policy: MVCC Identification Card
- c. New Board Policy: MVCC Camping and Use of Tents
- d. New Board Policy: MVCC Posting Policy
- e. Policy Revision: Public Order: Assembly, Picketing, and Demonstration

The Board held a first reading of the aforementioned policies. With no further discussion resulting in the first reading, these policies will move to the Consent Agenda at the May Board of Trustees meeting.

## 9. Consent Agenda

*Attachment a.* Minutes of March 17, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting

*Attachment b.* Treasurer’s Report

*Attachment c.* Conferring of Degrees

*Attachment d.* Administrator Promotion in Level

*Attachment e.* Promotion in Academic Rank – Professional Association

*Attachment f.* Non-Teaching Professional Promotions

*Attachment g.* Kate Donnelly, Admissions Specialist

*Attachment h.* Amend Staffing Plan: Medina Besirevic, Coordinator of Special Projects

*Attachment i.* Nicholas Maggio, Peace Officer

*Attachment j.* Matthew Jodway, Peace Officer

*Attachment k.* Tracy Branch, Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) Counselor

A motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 9a–9k was made by Trustee Elaine Falvo and seconded by Trustee Frank Dubeck. The motion was unanimously approved.

## 10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee Frank Dubeck and seconded by Trustee Anna D’Ambrosio to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. Unanimously approved.