

Quinebaug Valley Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

Attendees:

Hall, Matthew L (Quinebaug) President	Lewis, John (Quinebaug)
Adase, Lisa K (Quinebaug)	Lynch, Brian M (Quinebaug)
Andersen, Jonathan	Michalski, Erica (Quinebaug)
Battye, Jayne (Quinebaug)	Pagano, Erin S (Quinebaug)
Chu, Ling-chuan (Quinebaug)	Phillion, Melissa M (Quinebaug)
Clifford, Pauline (Quinebaug)	Shizume, Timothy (Quinebaug)
Clinton, Brian (Quinebaug)	Spjut, Jakob E (Quinebaug)
Germain, Norly (Quinebaug)	Stockwell, Christine E (Quinebaug)
Griffiths, Kimberly (Quinebaug)	Van Orden, Sara W (Quinebaug)
Hernandez, Deneuve Mazarin (Quinebaug)	Walsh, Denise (Quinebaug)
Kaufman, Brian (Quinebaug)	Witt, Rosalie (Quinebaug)
Knapp, Jane E (Quinebaug) Vice President	Zvoma, Kudzai (Quinebaug)
Lemieux, Philip A (Quinebaug)	Missing one attendee

1. Meeting convened at 2:01 p.m.
 - a. Agenda: Joint Commencement with Three Rivers
2. Luncheon rumor of joint commencement with Three Rivers (confirmed after the fact)
 - a. Graduation Committee
 - i. Membership finalized Friday 9/12
 - b. Schedule for commencement: Mohegan Sun, Tuesday, May 26 @10 am
 - i. President Jukoski confirmed this at meeting with Academic and Staff Senate Leadership
 - i. Said some staff/faculty indicated that a joint commencement at Mohegan Sun this was fine (in a hallway conversation)
 - ii. Rain issues influenced faculty opinion
 - iii. Comments:
 1. Maybe interesting
 2. Nice place
3. Concerns from faculty:
 - a. First-hand experience of Mohegan graduation – had to watch conferral of degree on Jumbotron – like watching TV
 - b. Deny students bespoke tradition, intimacy and care that our graduation ceremony has provided for decades
 - c. Asked to move to someone else’s center without consultation

- i. Reflects on our identity – not just nostalgia
 - ii. A prelude to merging campuses?
 - d. On campus commencement provides:
 - i. A generational connection to campus culture that drives the health and longevity of our college
 - ii. Reinforces a sense of belonging and pride, allowing students to share the moment with peers, faculty, and family in the environment where their academic journey took shape
 - iii. Delivery of promises made
 - iv. Free parking
 - v. Local community
 - vi. Supports campus autonomy
 - vii. Create a burden for president to attend 2 ceremonies
 - e. Graduating offsite:
 - i. Prioritizes cost and convenience over the student experience and traditions of our campus
 - ii. Creates unnecessary burdens for families, particularly those with limited resources or mobility issues
 - iii. Defeats community
 - 1. Does not make sense to sit through someone else's commencement
 - iv. Adds distance
 - 1. Offsets costs to students for travel
 - v. Graduating at a casino is antithetical to our anti-gambling initiatives
 - f. Schedule
 - i. mid-morning on a weekday after a holiday creates attendance issues
 - ii. prefer an evening event
 - g. Commencement Budget
 - i. QV has no line item for commencement budget
 - 1. Costs include: Pizza, printing, extra security, staff, decor, roses
 - 2. Maybe President Jukoski does not know how low the QV budget for commencement is
 - ii. Adding buses to transport to Mohegan Sun will be expensive
 - 1. Opens the door to schedule issues for students and families for catching the bus
 - iii. Three Rivers had spent about \$45K for tents for rain
 - 1. Holding the event at Mohegan Sun costs only about \$23K.
4. Suggestions
- a. Reach out to students
 - i. Need to be careful of student opinions
 - ii. Concern about how data is structured and collected
 - b. We need a reasonable process to consider and review decisions
 - i. Appreciates decisive approach, but this decision should have been presented to QV faculty and staff
 - c. Approve a resolution today to be on the record

5. Other discussion
 - a. Was not discussed at CT Senate due to agenda and appropriateness of venue
 - b. No other campus that shares a president is having a merged commencement
6. Motion to write a resolution for QV to have an independent commencement followed by remote voting.
 - a. Along the lines of:

“The position of the Academic Senate is that we strongly request an independent commencement ceremony.”

An initial draft was posted.
 - a. No nays or abstentions – motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm

Next meeting: 10/20/2025 at 2 pm