

Faculty Caucus Minutes

Tuesday November 23, 2021

230pm

Zoom

Present: E. Bush, S. Crocker, S. Dar, A. Devine, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, R. Jubenville, M. Kelly, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, S. McManus, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Call to order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes: Correct the spelling of C. Ehrlich's name. G. Melendez 1st. S. Crocker 2nd

16 Approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Guests: J. Lynch, R. Spetka

J. Lynch and R. Spetka attended Faculty Caucus to address questions and provide thoughts on the proposed changes in current grading policy.

R. Spetka stated that the proposed policy should be flexible for possible future expansion (i.e. adding minus grades). She also shared some concerns; how will this affect selection for President's and Vice President's lists, GPAs will look different, Registrar will have to update in several areas, and despite the changes students may still not be accepted for their desired programs.

A spirited discussion ensued. One general concern involved percentages and their letter-grade equivalents and how retroactive grading might occur. Most faculty agreed that not sharing the percentages would be ideal.

J. Lynch also mentioned that plus/minus grades could affect students' academic standing.

Diversity Conversation:

A faculty member shared strategies for equity in the classroom such as allowing untimed (online) assessments and allowing students to start and pause their exams. A variety of assessments also included oral presentations. When it comes to work, students are allowed to handwrite and send pictures of assignments (as opposed to typed and emailed). Also a no deadline policy was removed but students were told that late work was not graded as quickly as assignments handed in by the due date. As far as transmission of work goes all analogies are removed from lectures, she removes all math, and keeps reading to a minimum. Students are provided with rubrics and voice feedback as opposed to written. Finally, all lectures are recorded.

A question and answer period followed.

Chair Report:

A group has been formed to work on the MVCC class surveys. This will be presented at January Institute.

VP Kahler has stated that access to zoom will not be cut off mid semester. All changes will take effect when Spring semester ends.

VP Squires will investigate more food options as more people are expected on campus in the Spring.

The work on Payne Hall has been paused and will resume when warmer weather returns.

J. Suriano of Auxiliary Services has asked for suggestions on enhancements or products for the MVCC bookstore

Old Business

A vote on MVCC Grade System and Transfer Credit Policy Change Recommendations will take place in December.

New Business

Proposal for Caucus Secretary to be a formal position. One-year term to be decided by caucus vote.

M. Kelly 1st, A. Radlowski 2nd

18 approve, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Open Forum

Caucus members commented on the necessity for post-pandemic guiding points since most classes will be returning to in-person in the Spring. For example, snow days. Do we take a “regular” snow day, or will we switch to online instruction that day? Who will inform students? How will they be informed? What are the back-up plans for other unexpected situations?

Discussion ensued where various points were brought up. Has anyone approached President VanWagner? Has anyone informed students that we may switch to online? How will it apply to staff? What happens if a faculty member contracts COVID? A faculty member volunteered to create a google doc where concerns will be shared.

A brief discussion over the effectiveness of advising day ensued.

Adjournment

C. Miller 1st, M. Kelly 2nd

Caucus adjourned at 4:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roman Santos