

Faculty Caucus minutes **October 18, 2022** **2:30pm** **Teams**

Present: M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, L. Charboneau S. Crocker, S. Dar, V. Day, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, A. Lewis, S. McCall, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, R. Santos, D. Sonne, D. Stevens, C. Van Namee L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Commented [SD1]: Christine Van Namee was present.

Call to Order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes: Changes were recommended: soften the tone by adding “the following questions were asked by some members of caucus” to the 1st Day Complete discussion. Add the next meeting date to the minutes. Change SUNY Gen Ed to MVCC Gen Ed.

M. Kelly 1st, B. Bush 2nd

19 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain with the proposed changes.

Guests: VP T. Squires

Old Business: VP Squires attended to answer any questions/concerns about First Day Complete. Among some of the information VP addressed: the current systems in place (SIRS) would give students information about textbooks. It is anticipated that the length of the contract would be 2 years. The Student Congress [executive committee] seems receptive to First Day Complete. Information has been shared with student government where the main concerns are about faculty changing/not using textbooks, how would a student opt out, and what (if any) supplies are included.

Commented [EB2]: Is this supposed to be Student Congress?

Gen Ed committee is in the process of updating courses to include information on DEI and Information Literacy. Changes to the catalog will be ready for a December vote.

AA/AAS degrees will require minor changes to program descriptions.

Chair Report: Chair shared the makeup of caucus leadership, caucus advisory, and DEI advisors.

Chair attended ‘Shared Governance Conference’ and reported the system in place at MVCC seems better than most colleges (only one other school has a Faculty Caucus)

Met with VP Squires and discussed possible food/drink options for faculty/students after 2pm.

Met with VP Kahler, VP continues to accept feedback on Preferred Transfer Partners.

All information from meetings can be found on the Caucus page on MS Teams.

Diversity Conversation: Caucus members indicated a desire for more information that can be applied in the classroom, M. Barlett shared some ideas on Universal Designs for Learning (UDL). She spoke about how learning is complex and that a single approach is not beneficial to our students. As instructors we should attempt to remove barriers to learning; one example she gave was using multiple methods (text, audio) to describe an assignment. She also went through various ways to engage students in learning.

J. Ireland then shared her thoughts on UDL. She talked about clarifying vocabulary and symbols that students may not be familiar with (that we as instructors may take for granted). As instructors we need to design lessons for all possible learners, this can be accomplished in small steps by asking ourselves “How can I make this lesson better?”

Both J. Ireland and M. Barlett will share documents related to UDL on the Faculty Caucus Teams page.

New Business: A. Miller and M. Barlett attended FCCC Plenary. Three resolutions were presented: 1. Employee mental health and what helps are available. 2. A clear definition of what's an upper and lower division course. This should eliminate any issues when students transfer. 3. SUNY will create support for developing courses in DEISJ. It currently does not exist. Faculty will be asked to endorse these resolutions in November.

Chancellor search is underway, no other information is available.

Open Forum: First Day Complete doubts were raised. Some Caucus members do not feel there is enough transparency. It was also commented that students need to be encouraged to keep asking questions.

Midterm grades-are they required? An email sent indicated they weren't (and that faculty had the option to give S/U grades). But faculty are still reminded about midterm grades.

Discussion about Columbus Day ensued. A break is needed. Why are options not considered? Other SUNY schools have the day off without adverse effects on the calendar. This needs to be explored further by faculty.

Chair reminded Caucus members to send any ideas for the next meeting.

Next meeting will take **place November 22, 2022**, at 2:30pm on MS Teams.

Motion to Adjourn: D. Sonne 1st, M. Kelly 2nd

Caucus adjourned at 4:32pm.

Roman Santos