

Faculty Caucus minutes

September 20, 2022

230pm

Teams

Present: M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, S. Crocker, S. Dar, A. Devine, C. Ehrlich, N. Evanoff, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, J. Kinney, M. Kuczynski, A. Lewis, S. McCall, S. Mead-Shepardson, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, H. Palmiter, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, B. Shaw, D. Sonne, C. Spencer, D. Stevens, L. Williams, C. VanName, R. Wittenberg

Call to Order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes:

J. Ireland 1st, C. Ehrlich 2nd

20 approve, 0 oppose, 3 abstain

Guests: None

Diversity Conversation: The possible future of the DEI discussions was presented. Should the focus go back to faculty now that we have heard student experiences? The chair presented some questions and asked Caucus members to reply via email. 1. What is the most useful thing you have gotten from the conversations? 2. What areas would you like to explore? 3. What format would you like to see? (Videos, stories, etc) 4. What would help you create a more welcoming and inclusive environment.

A brief discussion ensued. Perhaps a form could be created to give feedback and guide future discussions.

Chair Report: Since this is the Chair's first meeting, she briefly shared her background. She has already met with VP Squires to discuss "First Day Complete" and VP Kahler to discuss the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Preferred Partner criteria. The chair informed Caucus that we will now be meeting on Teams and that all documents will be kept there. Any suggestions/questions can be emailed to the Chair or posted in Teams.

Old Business: "First Day Complete"-all questions will be forwarded to VP Squires. There have been many concerns, especially since it was presented to faculty at the end of the semester (Spring 2022) before faculty departed for the summer. Has it been decided or not? Will this be an administrative decision or will the Administration take faculty concerns seriously? Will the Administration solicit feedback from not only faculty but from students via Student Congress? It appears that the college is preparing to implement "First Day Complete" for Fall 2023. Those present at the previous Board of Trustees meeting felt the decision had all but been made. Several caucus members raised concerns but all appeared to boil down to a few basic questions: will students be able to see the breakdown of costs? Will students have the proper information to make a decision that will be in their best financial interests? Will the college (bookstore) be transparent in how it reached the decision but also on the TRUE cost of this program?

Student class surveys: A. Lewis informed Caucus that with the upcoming implementation of Brightspace, it is likely that the class surveys will be done via Survey Monkey. The only concern that A. Lewis raised is that most of the faculty working on the surveys come from the "traditional" classes. He would like to see some more input from instructors of the more "non-traditional" classes.

New Business: J. Ireland talked about the Center for Teaching Excellence. It is still in the planning stages. The Faculty Lounge in AB will serve as the physical space for the Center. It will house workstations and training areas. In addition, there are plans for virtual resources on the MVCC website. J. Ireland welcomes any feedback but reminded everyone that it is still in the early planning stages and as yet no timelines have been set.

M. Barlett spoke about changes to MVCC Gen Ed requirements. A new DEI knowledge area has been added and courses that will satisfy this requirement need to be identified. Instructors for the courses and programs that will be affected will be contacted about changes that will need to be made to the catalog descriptions.

Preferred Transfer Partners: VP Kahler is requesting feedback about the list that was previously emailed to faculty. A discussion ensued where some concerns were raised. S. Dar advised members to email those concerns to VP Kahler.

Open Forum: Concern was raised about courses changing modalities after the start of the semester due to instructor illnesses (COVID). It is felt that there needs to be a better plan as it is not fair to students to be switching how their classes are run (in person to virtual to in person) due to instructor illness.

A Miller shared a few concerns from the FCCC plenary sessions. Specifically, how many 4-year institutions are lowering admissions standards taking many students who would normally attend a Community College. In order to compete Community Colleges are also lowering certain standards. She cited as an example the Gen Chem math requirement. It has now been changed to accept lower math classes OR some students are allowed to take chem with math as a co-req. A discussion ensued.

Chair reminded Caucus members to send any ideas for the next meeting before October 14

Motion to Adjourn: E. Bush 1st, C. Ehrlich 2nd

Caucus adjourned at 413pm.

Roman Santos

Next faculty caucus meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 18, 2022**, at **2:30 PM** on Microsoft Teams. Link will be emailed later.