

Faculty Caucus minutes

December 12, 2022

230pm

Teams

Commented [SD1]: December 13, 2022

Present: M. Barlett, E. Bush, M. Cameron, L. Charbneau, S. Crocker, S. Dar, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines-Stephan, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. Kuczinski, G. Melendez, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, A. Semko, B. Shaw, D. Sonne, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Call to Order: 2:32pm

Approval of Minutes:

With modifications: 12 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain.

Guests: G. Ashline

Diversity Conversation: G. Ashline shared Trauma Informed Practices with the group. G. Ashline started by sharing the definition of trauma and the different types of trauma that exist, then discussing how trauma affects those who have experienced it. When the body encounters stressors, it goes into survival mode. Society as a whole has experienced some sort of trauma over the past several years; when our students go into survival mode, they cannot store or retain information. They also withdraw and do not engage with others. Class participation diminishes. In addition, G. Ashline spoke about how we as instructors also carry some level of trauma. G. Ashline then shared some Trauma Informed Practices that may help our students engage with us (and other students). Letting them know that we are human and may have a bad day will humanize the experiences we all go through. This will make it easier for students to accept our offers of help. In our teaching, we should have resources ready and be willing to adapt. Arranging rooms (where possible) to foster inclusiveness. Adapting to students' needs and circumstances. With our diverse population, we should also be aware of different cultural norms when it comes to asking/receiving help. G. Ashline finished by reminding us that as educators we also need time for self-care to be able to help our students and that sometimes it is OK to say 'no'.

A question and answer session ensued.

Chair Report: Met with VP Squires. Phones: new phones will be installed in some rooms. It may not always be possible to change the current location of the phones. T. Squires will bring it up with facilities.

Classroom doors cannot be installed with button locks for safety reasons.

Should there be another active shooter safety training?

VP Squires provided a report on the college's efforts to re-establish childcare facilities on campus. The issue remains the cost of a facility vs. how much use it will get.

Met with VP Kahler. L. Kahler stated that moving advising day to October would prove difficult since the academic calendars for the next 5 years have been set up. It was also noted that since advising day is a part of the Guided Pathways initiative, the Guided Pathway Steering Council would have to be involved in the decision to move advising day.

VP Kahler was interested in feedback in how students are doing post-COVID.

Faculty were reminded to participate in “Battle of the Hawks”

Old Business: VP Kahler is still taking suggestions for preferred partners. It was observed that any recommendation should not only be college/institution based but also program based.

New Business: Student engagement in a post pandemic world.

Facilitated by E. Bush, 3 questions were asked as to how we work with students now that the college has returned to mostly in-person operation:

1. How has student engagement changed in you classroom post-COVID?
2. Have you observed new or changed patterns of student engagement?
3. What has assisted you in handling or resolving the challenges you are experiencing in the classroom post-COVID?

Discussions and the sharing of experiences ensued.

There will be a book club for Spring semester

S. Dar asked if caucus meetings for next semester should be online or in person. The majority of Caucus members would like to continue meeting online.

Open Forum: The question of student surveys was brought up; will they be available in Brightspace?

Next meeting will take place January 17, 2023 at 230pm.

Caucus adjourned at 415pm.

Roman Santos