

Faculty Caucus minutes **February 21, 2023** **230pm** **Teams**

Present: M. Barlett, E. Bridisi, E. Bush, L. Charbaneau, S. Dar, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines-Stephan, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, G. Melendez, S. McCall, A. Miller, C. Miller, G. Peck, R. Santos, D. Sonne, B. Walcutt, L. Williams, and R. Wittenberg

Call to Order: 2:32pm

Approval of Minutes:

15 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain.

Guests: N. Chrisman

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Conversations: B. Walcutt shared some strategies he uses to implement DEI awareness in his Economics courses. He shared some of the case studies he uses to illustrate economic principles and how race/gender affect peoples' economic standing. It is impossible to look at economic issues such as unemployment, access to jobs, access to capital, and even environmental issues without also looking at who is affected and how race plays a role. He challenged faculty members to set aside preconceived notions and look closely to see how DEI affects each of our course subject areas.

Old Business: None

New Business: Guest N. Chrisman shared some of the concerning events happening in Florida. Currently the governor is attempting to implement several Anti-DEI and Anti-Culturally Responsive Teaching measures in Florida schools. While those measures are primarily aimed at K-12 there are also several examples of these being extended to Higher Ed. Institutions are being asked to provide the state with lists of DEI and CRT initiatives along with people, resources, and monies to be involved. It is felt that this is the first step in Florida eliminating DEI and CRT from Higher Ed. N Chrisman has asked faculty members to stay informed and be ready to endorse motions that may come from the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC).

J. Ireland gave an update on the Center for Inclusive Teaching Excellence (CITE). The mission statement has been written and the goals have been set out and awaiting approval. The former faculty/staff lounge will be the physical space and is currently being prepared (still in need of furniture and equipment). The website is under development.

S. Dar shared how Faculty Caucus Advisory is currently reviewing and updating Faculty Caucus Bylaws. She shared the items covered and various rules governing the makeup of Caucus, Advisory committee makeup, leadership makeup and expectations of members. In addition, meetings and voting procedures were laid out. This is being done because previously there were no formal bylaws since Faculty Caucus is a relatively new part of the governing process. S. Dar then asked for any recommendations.

Chair Report: Chair was unable to meet with VP Squires this past month.

Commented [EB1]: Should we say faculty?

Commented [EB2]: Can we spell out what CRT stands for?

Commented [EB3]: Probably should be capital K

Commented [EB4]: Maybe spell out Faculty Council of Community Colleges for newer faculty and then add FCCC

Commented [EB5]: Should we be spelling faculty caucus out and should each word be capitalized?

Commented [EB6]: Ditto on comment above

Commented [EB7]: Squires with s

Met with VP Kahler where embedded tutoring was discussed. The Wellness Council was brought up and it was agreed more sensitivity would be shown in the future. VP Kahler shared his vision for CITE. Training for Brightspace will start soon. VP Kahler plans to attend the March Faculty Caucus meeting.

Commented [EB8]: Ditto on FC abbreviation

Any agenda items should be sent to S. Dar

Open Forum: Some Faculty Caucus members wanted confirmation that Summer 2023 courses would be using Brightspace, other faculty more familiar with the issue confirmed Brightspace will be used for Summer 2023 courses.

Commented [EB9]: Ditto

J. Ireland asked for feedback on the CITE charter which is available in Teams.

Faculty are concerned that Student Support Advisors (SSA) are scheduling appointments during class time. Faculty do not know for sure if the circumstances are arising from students' requests or SSAs requests due to scheduling conflicts.

Commented [EB10]: Student Support Advisors.
May want to express that there is concern that students are scheduling advising sessions during class time and state that faculty do not know for sure if the circumstances are arising from students requests or SSAs requests due to scheduling conflicts.

Next meeting will take place March 21, 2023, at 230pm.

Motion to adjourn: E. Bush-1st, D. Sonne-2nd

Caucus adjourned at 354pm

Roman Santos