

Faculty Caucus minutes**April 18, 2023****230pm****Teams**

Present: M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, M. Cameron S. Crocker, S. Dar, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Haines, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. Kuczinski, G. Melendez, S. McCall, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, D. Sonne, C. VanName, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Call to Order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes:

A. Radlowski 1st. S. Crocker 2nd

19 approve, 0 oppose, abstain.

Guests: VP T. Squires, T. Coulson, J. Maio T. Mariotti,

Guest Speaker VP Squires:

VP Squires informed Faculty Caucus that First Day Complete has been approved and will be implemented starting Fall semester. Since there were still concerns from Faculty VP Squires visited to Caucus to answer/address those questions and concerns. There was a spirited exchange between VP Squires and several members of Faculty Caucus. One concern was who can faculty email/speak to if there is a need to speak with a bookstore representative since there has been substantial turnover in the management of the bookstore. Other concerns brought up were student options should they opt out, how will this integrate with Brightspace, and how to address certain classes' needs for multiple format texts.

Senate Committee for Electronic and Information Technology. The question arose if this should be a permanent or Ad-hoc committee? SUNY asked colleges to update their IT policy, when it comes to classroom tech many feel Faculty Caucus (and faculty in general) should be a part of creating and updating policy since they are the ones who create most of the content. A discussion ensued.

Old Business: M. Barlett updated caucus on the Gen Ed committee's work to update the assessment plans. Rubrics are being worked on to streamline the process and make it more consistent. It is hoped that this can all be finalized in the Fall. All comments and questions are welcome.

New Business: A. Miller presented updates from FCCC. There are two resolutions in need of Caucus endorsement:

1. Resolution in support of Academic Freedom in States where it is currently being curtailed.
2. "Inclusive Access" bookstore programs such as "First Day Complete" are being pushed at several colleges. There needs to be a system where faculty can provide feedback like at OCC where bookstore managers attend Senate meetings.

Caucus members are encouraged to submit nominations for Adjunct Faculty Excellence Awards

More AOS/AAS instructors are needed to serve on Committees

Academic Freedom resolution:

A. Miller 1st. E. Bush 2nd. 18 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Inclusive Access resolution:

A. Miller 1st. C. Miller 2nd. 18 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention

MVCC Faculty Caucus endorses both resolutions

DEI: M. Barlett spoke about Inclusion and Belonging for Neurodivergent Learners. Neurodiversity can encompass any number of diagnoses: ADHD, Autism, and Dyslexia. As instructors, we need to create a space for neurodivergence. M. Barlett shared several ideas on how we can do this. First, we can show we are aware of the difficulties neurodivergence can bring and model vulnerability. Being aware of certain behaviors as indicators of neurodivergence (as opposed to disinterest or defiance) is also a big help. Next having a written schedule of work but also allowing some flexibility. Being careful of certain words or certain language since many neurodivergent individuals will take things literally. M. Barlett then suggested to always be ready to provide reminders and helps with what needs to be done and how to start. M. Barlett then reminded Caucus that not all neurodivergent individuals are diagnosed and many have learned to mask certain behaviors (especially women) so being observant is key in helping those students.

Chair Report: Chair met with VP Squires. New phone system is up and running. There will be a period of adjustment and any issues should be reported.

Book orders need to be submitted ASAP

Met with VP Kahler. Discussed his visit to Caucus in March, perhaps make a once per semester visit? Concerns about Brightspace were discussed. Also concerns about the lack of classroom survey results over the past several semesters.

MVCC has lifted the COVID vaccine mandate.

S. Dar attended FCCC Plenary as Caucus Chair

New Caucus bylaws posted to TEAMS

S. Dar invited Caucus members to send her any agenda items for next meeting, which will be on May 9. It will be the final meeting for the semester. S. Dar shared her intent to serve another year as Faculty Caucus chair. Vacancies in Caucus Advisory need to be filled as well as the election of a new Secretary. This will happen at the next meeting.

Open Forum: There was some concern as to the wording in the announcement of MVCC's lifting of the COVID vaccine mandate. Some felt the use of words like "exciting" was insensitive. In addition, many felt faculty and staff should have been informed first as opposed to finding out via social media.

To whom do we speak to regarding grade changes? There used to be confirmation emails when a grade was changed but that appears to no longer be the case.

It appears that the current default grading scale for plus/minus grades is at 5 (i.e. 75, 85). If faculty want a different scale (i.e. 77, 78 for a + grade) then they need to adjust manually.

Several members expressed displeasure with the new phone system.

Next meeting will take place May 9, 2023 at 230pm.

Motion to adjourn: D. Sonne-1st, S. McCall-2nd

Caucus adjourned at 444pm

Roman Santos