

**Faculty Caucus minutes**

**January 17, 2023**

**2:30pm**

**Teams**

**Present:** M. Barlett, E. Bridisi, E. Bush, M. Cameron, L. Charbneau, S. Crocker, S. Dar, A. Doughtie, C. Ehrlich, N. Evanoff, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines-Stephan, R. Huyck, M. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, G. Melendez, S. McCall, A. Miller, C. Miller, K. Raab, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, B. Seaton, D. Sonne, C. Spencer, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

**Call to Order:** 2:32pm

**Approval of Minutes:**

15 approve, 0 oppose, 0 abstain.

**Guests:** I. Rosic

The question of math readiness

Guest: I. Rosic

There was an overall loss of students due to COVID, as students returned there was an increased need for tutoring help. (Loss of skills). Tutors were soon placed in Math classes (on campus). Over the summer adding tutors to ILS portions of classes was piloted.

Results of Pilot: grades improved overall, class engagement increased, students felt more comfortable going to tutors and hence tutoring hours increased

There are plans to embed tutors in A & P and Chem 141 classes. The obvious benefits being the tutors are familiar with the specific class material and the students get to know and engage with the tutors.

While there are plans to expand this program it would seem to be better suited to classes that have a ILS or lab component.

There was a brief Q and A and a video where students spoke of positive experiences with tutoring.

I Rosic also asked for recommendations for student/peer tutors.

**DEI:** What are some first day welcome activities that will be inclusive? M. Barlett shared some of her strategies including getting preferred names, pronouns, and pronunciation all before calling roll from the roster.

Also mentioned were small group activities to get students speaking to each other and making connections.

Finally M. Barlett suggested asking students "What should I know about you?" and even "What do you want to know about me?" All this can help promote growth, normalize mistakes, and alleviate bandwidth issues with various class members.

Caucus members were then invited to share their own experiences

**Chair Report:** Chair will meet with VP Squires on February 7.

VP Kahler expressed concern about student engagement post-COVID, hence the reason for I Rosic's visit to caucus. At some future date, VP Kahler would like to visit a caucus meeting for an informal chat.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** There is hopes of bringing a Faculty Peer Mentoring Program to MVCC for Tenure-track Faculty members. A link for more information will be provided in TEAMS.

Any agenda items should be sent to S. Dar

**Open Forum:** Concerns were raised about the College's Biggest Loser fitness challenge. Despite the end goal of better health, it was brought up that such weight loss competitions feed into weight bias/discrimination and may negatively impact those who suffer from eating disorders. A lively debate ensued.

A concern about classroom caps was also raised. While caps were lowered temporarily due to COVID concerns it appears as if the caps have been raised without informing faculty.

Caucus members were reminded about T. Coulson's email which listed several mental health resources.

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

Motion to adjourn: S. Crocker-1<sup>st</sup>, D. Sonne-2<sup>nd</sup>

**Caucus adjourned at 351pm**

Roman Santos