FACULTY CAUCUS MINUTES
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
2:15PM   PH 300

Present: J. Baumann, E. Bush, S. Dar, S. Fryman, A. Haines, D. Kelly, S. McCall, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, N. Rosero, R. Santos, B. Scantlebury
Guests: M. Eannace, T. Squires, R. VanWagoner

CALL TO ORDER
The Caucus was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The minutes from the meeting on February 21, 2017, were approved.

CHAIR REMARKS
C. Miller commented that the links to the Presenter Form on the website are now functional, and she will soon send an email with the links to the College community. The form is sent to the Chair of Caucus and is stored in a database for records. R. VanWagoner tested the form, and will be visiting Caucus today.

Since the last meeting of the Caucus is before the new senators have been elected, it was suggested that elections for the Chair are held after the second Senate meeting in May.

CURRENT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES CONVERSATION
R. VanWagoner was present to discuss several initiatives, including the following:

- Future Forums (Fall 2016)
  Participants at the forums discussed nine emerging trends and what they might look like at MVCC. Topics included Gamification, Open Educational Resources (OER), Equity & Diversity, Accelerated Student Achievement Program (ASAP), Micro-credentials, Flexible Scheduling, Online/Hybrid, Developmental Education, and Simplified Tech.

- Prior Learning
  R. VanWagoner would like Faculty Caucus to take the lead on Prior Learning by investigating where Prior Learning is working well (internally, as well as externally at institutions such as Empire State). Using that as a prototype, and maintaining academic standards, roll it out in high-demand areas and then bring to scale. Current difficulties include the cost to students and how SLOs are met. Students need to meet 70-80% of SLOs and, while students with prior learning may satisfy the requirements for part of a class, finding a way to help them meet the remainder is a challenge. One possible solution is a modularized curriculum. For example, students in Colorado were required to take a course in Microsoft Office. The course was modularized so students only took what they needed. Another option would be a "test out" option, where students could test out of a course. If they fail a portion of the test, the students could study up on those topics under faculty guidance, and then re-test.

- Micro-credentials
  We are having the conversation about micro-credentials while other schools are not. Micro-credentials

provide momentum points for students and can be a way to introduce niche programs. For example, the Flatiron School in New York City holds a six week summer program with 100% job placement in coding, and we are starting to see this type of program in upstate New York as well.

M. Eannace was also present to discuss some of the conversations occurring on campus, including:

- PGP & Starfish
  Faculty developing PGP Toolkits are using Starfish, and have requested using the program in other courses as well. We negotiated with the company and will be able to open up Starfish to all students on campus, and it will be available to faculty who want to use it (at other schools that use Starfish, a maximum of about 80% of faculty use it). Features of the software include messaging students, their advisors, and completion coaches; sending students kudos; tracking attendance; and setting up appointments in the Starfish calendar (which communicates with Outlook). M. Eannace will work throughout the summer with I. Rosic, J. Lynch, and P. Katchmar to streamline systems, so that there is not duplicate reporting.

  Two new Completion Coaches will be hired at the end of the summer. At other institutions, some coaches have a caseload of 600 students, but they don't always meet with all students all the time. Not all students need a completion coach.

  Because of changes due to the Trump administration, it is uncertain what will happen with federal grants, and it's possible that we may not get all five years of the grant. The Department of Education has been happy with our progress in the grant so far, and we will continue to move forward as originally planned.

- Guided Pathways
  College students have difficulty narrowing down what program choice will work best for them, and Guided Pathways suggests having intrusive, up-front advising about career planning with students. Monroe Community College piloted guided pathways and we have applied to participate in the "Guided Pathways 2.0." This is a full College endeavor, involving curriculum, career readiness, advising, and other areas. If we are not accepted into the program, Monroe Community College will mentor us through our own program.

- Block Scheduling
  We need to improve enrollment on the Rome Campus, and block scheduling is being considered as an option.

A conversation with R. VanWagoner and M. Eannace about spaces and furniture on campus then followed. R. VanWagoner is investigating ways to fund renovating the rooms in AB. Surveys have been given in the past about faculty and student preference regarding classrooms, so there is data to help design and layout classrooms.

FEMININE PRODUCTS ON CAMPUS
Tom Squires

Vice-President T. Squires was present to discuss where, and to what extent, feminine products are available on campus. While there had previously been vending machines in ladies rooms on campus, they were frequently

vandalized, with the money and products being stolen from them. Keeping the machines in working order and well stocked was a difficulty, and so they were removed. This occurred before T. Squires was at the College, and Facilities has struggled to come up with a way to make feminine products available, although they are sold in the Book Store and the Health Center does make the products available, free of charge.

After some discussion, it was suggested that vending machines be located in two ladies rooms in AB, one on each floor, with signs in the other ladies rooms indicating where products could be found. It was also suggested that products be made available in the Faculty Lounge once renovations are completed.

OPEN FORUM
The issue of finding a private place on campus to dedicate to women who are pumping breast milk was discussed. While the Health Center is currently used, it is not always private. It was suggested that perhaps an empty office or classroom in AB could be converted to a ladies lounge, which could house feminine products and provide a private space for pumping.

The conversation surrounding classroom needs and design continued. Different disciplines require different needs, so it can be a challenge to make classrooms that are fully generic. It was suggested to examine which classrooms are used most often by most disciplines, and then to group the classrooms by discipline to make them more appropriate for the content and methods used. There was also a question about what the new building will be used for, and whether the move of Payne Hall offices to the new building would be permanent or temporary. Ideally, the new building should be an academic building with intentionally designed classrooms.

Lastly, Starfish was discussed, with the primary conversation concerned about whether the program will add to faculty workload or streamline it. A single access portal is ideal, and if Starfish can communicate with Banner, that would be a step forward.

ADJOURNMENT
The Faculty Caucus adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING
The next meeting of the Senate Faculty Caucus will be Tuesday, April 18st at 2:15 p.m. in PH 300.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski