

FACULTY CAUCUS MINUTES
Tuesday, September 19, 2017
2:30PM ~ * ~ PH 300

Present: D. Ayers-Darling, J. Baumann, E. Bush, L. Charbonneau, S. Crocker, A. Doughtie, A. Fried, A. Haines-Stephan, M. Kelly, S. McCall, G. Melendez, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, N. Rosero, R. Santos, B. Scantlebury, G. Searles

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus was called to order at 2:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the April 18th and May 15th meetings were unanimously approved, with some changes.

CHAIR REMARKS

C. Miller shared that she sent a report to Senate last year, summarizing the work of the Caucus from the year. The report was shared with the Cabinet.

Presenter Form Submission

Carolyn DeJohn has requested to speak at the October meeting about CCED opportunities to offer CEU programs for students and professionals. She is looking for faculty input regarding what programming could be offered to benefit students. The Caucus agreed to the presentation by common consensus.

Information Technology Council

Paul Katchmar is interested in hearing periodic feedback from faculty about technology projects that would be helpful to build into the technology plan moving forward. Some initial suggestions from the Caucus included restructuring the Wi-Fi and purchasing scheduling software (for scheduling classes), as well as altering the “deep freeze” on campus computers so that users do not have to wait for updates to install or click through the “first opened” settings in programs like PowerPoint or Adobe. A set of quick trouble-shoot directions would also be useful to have in every classroom, and it was suggested that an online way of submitting comments, suggestions, or service claims would be useful.

PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

C. Miller solicited reactions to the August Institute presentation about Guided Pathways. Some comments and concerns include the following:

- It was repeatedly stressed that this must be faculty driven, yet many faculty feel confused about what Guided Pathways really entails. Data about long-term benefits would be nice to have.
- Many faculty are interested in attending Robert Johnston’s event on Sept 21st, but it is held during the afternoon during class time. A suggestion for the future would be to have a dinner & evening event rather than a lunch & afternoon event so that interested faculty can attend.
- The Degree Works Planner will help set a unique pathway for students, but a physical map would be useful for visual learners.

- Several concerns regarding advising were expressed.
 - Many faculty take on overloads, either due to financial need or pressure to teach courses when adjuncts can't be found. What is the load for faculty at other Pathways institutions, and what kind of support can be offered here? The time commitment from faculty that will be needed for intrusive advising is a concern.
 - Although the reason for cross-training is understood, it is a challenge to advise students outside of one's area of expertise. Is support material being written to aid in this? An example given was to create a pamphlet for criminal justice majors, indicating the path students should take for the FBI; to be a state trooper; to go into criminal law; etc.
 - This feels like a step backward to the Plan of Study and pre-Degree Works days.
- It was strongly acknowledged that personal connections between faculty and students is a key component to increasing retention and enrollment. However, should connections with students in the classroom be sacrificed to be able to make connections with advisees?

ROLES OF THE MID-CAREER PROFESSIONAL

At the Strategic Horizons Network, the topic of how technology is changing the role of teachers at colleges was explored. As a result, there is movement at the College to formalize a system of course reductions for faculty who wish to engage in bigger projects at the College. For example, a course reduction is given to the chair of Senate. There would be no expectation for faculty to do this, but it would be provided as an option for those who wish to take on some other roles at the College.

The conversation that followed included concerns about whether adjuncts or new full-time faculty would be hired to teach those courses. While some faculty are being asked to take on overloads, others are having difficulty making load with the decline in enrollment. Will MOOCs make a comeback, and if so, doesn't that contradict the goal to make personal connections between faculty and students? This would also be an item for negotiation, and the amount of work that constitutes one credit/contact hour of instruction would need to be well-defined. Additionally, how would this impact those applying for promotion?

STARFISH

There were numerous concerns about the number of email reminders to complete the Starfish survey, especially since faculty were not expecting it. Many felt the survey arrived too soon to be able to have anything to comment. Even those who attended the Starfish training were unpleasantly surprised by the emails that were sent to flagged students. Not only did the emails include paragraphs that the faculty did not write, but comments they thought were being sent to Completion Coaches were being sent to students instead. That the survey was not confidential between the faculty member and the Completion Coach was a surprise. While faculty like that the Coaches can use the flags to identify patterns, it was generally agreed that a Starfish manual would be useful to have, and that more training is needed. However, it is unknown who to contact regarding Starfish concerns.

OPEN FORUM*Textbooks*

There is a concern that the Bookstore has been running out of textbooks and supplies. Once book orders are submitted, Follett uses an algorithm to determine how many books to actually order. C. Miller will send an email to faculty, asking if their book orders ran short this semester and, if so, to forward the information to A. Haines-Stephan, who volunteered to compile the list and forward it to T. Squires.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Caucus adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senate Faculty Caucus will be Tuesday, October 17th at 2:30 p.m. in PH 300.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski