

FACULTY CAUCUS MINUTES

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
2:30PM Zoom

Present: M. Barlett, E. Bush, L. Charbonneau, N. Chrisman, S. Dar, A. Devine, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. LaPaglia, T. Marshall, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, D. Radeljas, R. Santos, A. Sharma, R. Simonds, M. Speech, L. Wadsworth, L. Williams.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM September 15th MEETING

The minutes from the September 15, 2020 meeting were approved.
Approved- 19, Opposed- 0, Abstained- 1.

CONVERSATION ABOUT DIVERSITY

Self-reflection

The ground rules for the discussion on race were reviewed:

1. Listen actively- this includes refraining from use of zoom chat feature
2. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (“I” instead of “they,” “we,” and “you”)
3. Participate fully at your own comfort level
4. Be respectful of everyone’s view point and be aware that we are all in different place
5. Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses

A discussion followed with various members talking about their experience with diversity while addressing the question “How do your life experiences relate to how you see cultural differences?”

ANTI-RACIST STATEMENT DRAFT

Comment was brought up from College Senate on the fourth bullet, to reword from “achievement gap” to “opportunity gap.” Question was also brought up why Black Lives Matter was not specifically stated in the draft. Also, should we add that there are guidelines, strategies, actionable items, etc. in the title? Statement as a word might connote that it is short such as the Mission and Vision statements. Anti-racist or Anti-racism? Do we include measures or assessments? The questions will be discussed by the Diversity Council during their next meeting.

SUNY STATEMENT ON THE WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE ORDER

The SUNY Statement on the White House Executive Order was an unexpected time sensitive item put forth on the agenda. Members of Faculty Caucus were told that the SUNY Chancellor has written a letter "SUNY STATEMENT ON THE WHITE HOUSE EXECUTIVE ORDER," which was shared with the group. The statement is SUNY's opposition to an Executive Order from the White House, which would hinder equity and diversity training and negatively impact efforts that are being made at the college. A vote was taken. To endorse the letter- 21, oppose- 0, abstain- 0.

CHAIR REPORT

-Online study resources

Bartleby learn was supposed to have be removed from the college's website, but is still there.

-COVID testing and class conflicts

There have been conflicts with testing and class schedules. If a student has a conflict, they can reschedule by contacting D. Gibbons or RA staff. Some institutions require professors to get tested on a regular basis if teaching on campus. If infection rate stays below a certain percentage in Oneida County, then the college feels comfortable only testing dorm students.

-Capital projects

Work on roof of Payne Hall and floor in Academic building (2nd floor) offices, classrooms, and hallways will be starting.

-Miscellaneous

SSA's and members of the bookstore staff are invited to the next Caucus meeting to answer any questions we have.

Please nominate people for the Hawk awards as few nominations have been received to date. What is going on with the Advising Day (11/17)? All faculty mentoring obligations needed negotiations, but talks stopped when the pandemic began. That day there are no classes and intent is for faculty to be available to meet with their advisees, but will be different this year with the pandemic.

BLACKBOARD NAMING CONVENTION RECOMMENDATION

Two options were presented for how courses would be named in Blackboard. This is to be more clear and easier for students to access their courses. Option A- course number, course name, semester, CRN, dates (for anything other than full term) or Option B- semester, course number, course name, CRN, dates (for anything other than full term). Option B can be grouped by semester because it is alphabetized. Unless requested, LAB course sites will not be created and if created,

will have the LAB designation. 77% voted Option B and 44% voted Option A. Committee for Blackboard naming voted for Option A.

MVCC NETIQUETTE DRAFT

Question on the third page about where “accessible location” might be. The college website is where it could be housed and then linked to in Syllabus. Last bullet in the Glossary about how this is presented in Course Search defining these terms and where else it would be available. Under synchronous on page five, should number 1 not be a part of the list? Under Online Communications Guidelines, number 2 should start the list? In the equipment section, students all not comfortable with having their webcams turned on or required to have them on. Number D on the first page leaves it up to the discretion of the instructor.

BIWEEKLY VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Tabled to next meeting.

FCCC UPDATE

New SUNY Chancellor was hired without a proper search and didn't follow the protocol that all SUNY's make the colleges follow and have been reprimanded for in the past. Chancellor was just appointed due to the pandemic. FCCC drafted a vote of no confidence, 21 colleges including our college have voted to endorse it. 3 colleges voted not to endorse or abstain.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Caucus adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

2:30pm on Tuesday, November 10th, 2020 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Faitell