

Faculty Caucus Minutes

Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 2:30PM Zoom

Present: M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, L. Charbonneau, S. Crocker, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. LaPaglia, M. Kelly, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, L. Wadsworth, and R. Wittenberg.

Guests: J. Lynch and N. Chrisman

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 20th meeting were approved.

Approved- 13, Opposed- 0, Abstained- 1.

Guests- J. Lynch and N. Chrisman

Blackboard Ultra: This is an upgrade to Blackboard. A survey of students at the beginning of the pandemic showed that a lot were working on devices other than computers. Blackboard Ultra makes Blackboard more mobile friendly. The college will move to this new platform between the Spring and Summer semesters (May 16th sites will be down and new system will be live no later than May 19th). All the courses will convert over exactly as is. Faculty have the option of using the “classic” Blackboard or converting them to Ultra, but once converted they cannot go back. Emails have been sent out with workshops on what the new platform will look like. There will also be workshops held over the summer.

MS 365: The college will convert over the summer to this web based Microsoft Office. This will also include a Cloud based drive (One Drive), which will be incorporated into Blackboard course sites.

Zoom: The College’s license runs from March to March. It has been renewed until March 2022, but not sure what will happen after, but an option is Collaborate in Blackboard.

Conversation about Diversity

The purpose of diversity conversations in Faculty Caucus was restated and the ground rules for these conversations were reviewed.

1. Listen actively- this includes refraining from use of zoom chat feature while others are speaking
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.

Those present viewed the following video:
On Diversity: Access Ain't Inclusion by Anthony Jack
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7w2Gv7ueOc>

Faculty discussed barriers seen in their own classrooms and what might be changed to make our day to day interactions with students more inclusive.

Chair Report

None.

Old Business

Guided Pathway Council representative: Still looking for a representative to start in the Fall. C. Miller will continue to serve as the representative over the summer.

New Business

Vote on Faculty Caucus chair (2021-2022): An email was sent out to see who was interested in the position. There were no emails so E. Bush will continue in the position next year.

Teaching modalities post-pandemic: A discussion was held. We are not sure how meetings will be handled in the Fall, whether it will be on campus, online, or a combination of both. A question was also brought up about the college working on a work from home policy. Also, don't know what modalities are most beneficial for students just by what classes they choose. Furthermore, there are many concerns about Blackboard being down for a few days during the grading period.

Open Forum

None.

Adjournment

The Faculty Caucus adjourned at 4:02p.m.

Next meeting

2:30pm on Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Faitell