Faculty Caucus Minutes

Tuesday April 19, 2022 230pm Zoom

Present: M. Barlett, E. Bush, L. Charbonneau, C. Ehrlich, A. Fried, R. Huyck, M. Kuczynski, A. Lewis, S. McCall, G. Melendez, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, B. Shaw, R. Wittenberg

Call to order: 2:32pm

Approval of Minutes:

S. McCall 1st. R. Huyck 2nd

10 Approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Guests:

Diversity Conversation: For this month, additional students were invited to share their experiences regarding diversity. Students answered a series of questions about their experiences at MVCC. Things that helped them feel included into the campus community were members of the Office of Accessibility Resources (OAR), the staff of the Learning Commons (LC), various faculty members, and finally being a part of student clubs, (the gaming club was specifically mentioned). Things that the students commented made them feel excluded were instances in which some faculty members skip over information about accommodations and services offered by OAR and in one specific case the syllabus statement had outdated information. Another student mentioned that the current asynchronous offerings don't foster a feeling of inclusion and rely on students doing work on their own, and in some cases instructors don't take into account the OAR accommodations a student needs when offering online exams. (i.e. extended time). Finally, the students shared some changes they would like to see such as instructors spending more time talking about the LC, OAR, C3, and other campus resources along with inviting OAR staff to visit classrooms so services could be explained. One student suggested that asynchronous classes have at least one class where everyone meets to familiarize students with each other and help foster inclusion.

A brief question and answer session ensued.

Chair Report: According to VP L. Kahler there is a plan to follow the Guided Pathways recommendation and implement a Teaching and Learning Center. Things are currently at a standstill as there is no definite decision as to where it will be located. VP L. Kahler will be meeting with Guided Pathway Council to discuss moving forward.

Per email exchanges with staff in Information Technology My MV software will be rolling out after the spring semester ends.

Faculty Caucus will be in need of a new chair and secretary for next year. Please contact E. Bush if you are interested in either position.

Old Business: The workgroup for online strategic planning met with VP L. Kahler, S. Reynolds, and D. McDermott on April 12th to discuss the proposed Faculty Caucus resolution concerning online strategic planning. Faculty revised the resolution based on the feedback discussed in April 12th meeting.

Discussion ensued as to the title of the document (resolution vs recommendation) as the intent of the resolution had a different impact on stakeholders than was intended. Faculty present agreed that the intent of the resolution did not line up with the impact as the discussion progressed. Workgroup will make edits to change the resolution to a Faculty Caucus recommendation.

An update and draft to the MVCC student survey retooling was shared. The draft of the new survey is in process. There will be a mission statement/purpose of survey explanation. Certain questions that ask students to rate things out of faculty control (ie adequacy of facilities) will be removed. The plan is to have questions related to instructional design; rating system has not been agreed upon yet but the group is leaning towards qualitative terms that can be converted to a number system.

A section for student comment and constructive feedback will be included. The 4 subcategories were further discussed and it was mentioned that a student self-assessment may be included.

A discussion ensued in which some caucus members mentioned that the survey could lose some of the formal language and perhaps responses such as 'Not Applicable' could be eliminated.

Any suggestions for classroom questions would be welcome by the group.

New Business: None

Open forum topics: The online Grade Change Form has been a concern for some faculty members since it appears that it is not always processing correctly. Several faculty have had issues with submitting and the form not being received. Perhaps a tracking system or a receipt (similar to attendance reports) can be added to the program.

Does the Sustainability Council still exist? If so when/where does it meet? Some members of Caucus would like to suggest topics especially the college's choice of diesel vehicles and other tech that will reduce the college's carbon footprint.

Some faculty members and students are experiencing difficulty with the OAR testing form.

Motion to Adjourn: A. Lewis 1st, R. Huyck, 2nd

Caucus adjourned at 4:19pm.

Roman C. Santos.