

Faculty Caucus minutes

November 22, 2022

230pm

Teams

Present: M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, T. Carter, L. Charbneau, K. Cordary, S. Crocker, S. Dar, D. Elseth, M. Faitell, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, J. Kinney, S. McCall, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, K. Raab, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, B. Shaw, D. Sonne, D. Stevens, R. Wittenberg

Call to Order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes:

D. Sonne 1st, G. Melendez 2nd

11 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain.

Guests: E. Gifford

Diversity Conversation: E. Gifford shared information about the current International Students; rules, regulations, and certain things to be aware about. She then shared how faculty can help international students as they navigate American culture. Things like avoiding idioms and slang when we teach are especially helpful in our instruction. Being aware that things that seem normal to us are a culture shock to international students. She then shared some macroaggressions to look out for such as assuming African students identify as African-American or using terms such as "3rd World".

E. Gifford finished by sharing there would be an additional 12 international students arriving in the Spring.

Chair Report: Met with VP Squires. No update on "First Day Complete"

Met with VP Kahler, Email regarding midterm grades was a mistake. Midterm grades are required even if faculty only assign 'S' or 'U'. Future emails will be corrected.

Mid semester break during the Fall is not possible because academic calendars have been set 5 years in advance. Discussion ensued and it was the consensus that inviting R. Spetka to meet with caucus in the Spring would be ideal.

The issue of childcare possibilities was brought up. While funds might be available to open a childcare center there would be no funds for an operational budget. Discussion ensued as to various programs and SUNY grants for providing childcare. Since MVCC once had a childcare center, it was agreed that finding out if the administration would be willing to re-open one would be prudent before pursuing grants or other programs that would provide childcare on campus.

All information from meetings can be found on the Caucus page on MS Teams

Old Business: A vote was called for to accept the changes/updates to the SUNY Gen Ed Requirements.

M. Barlett 1st, D. Sonne 2nd. 16 yes. 0 no. 0 abstain.

New Business: D. Elseth shared his experience with a student who was non-compliant with the MVCC COVID vaccination requirement. Despite being asked to comply the student did not, in addition the student kept attending classes despite being barred from campus. Adding to the difficulty was the student's limited English ability and the lack of interpreters. Despite D. Elseth following the chain of command, the situation lasted longer than it should have and help was not easily forthcoming. Compounding the situation was that the college's attempts at communication were all in English despite the fact the student's English was very limited.

D. Elseth posed the following questions: 1. What is the college response to student non-compliance? 2. Why is the college being reactive instead of proactive in communicating with students? 3. Why, during normal business hours, were there no VPs available to handle the situation? Shouldn't there always be a VP available during business hours to handle situations like this?

A discussion ensued and it was agreed that the college needs to be better prepared.

Open Forum: S. Dar shared an email from L. Williams regarding census reporting. Faculty are now being asked to report dates of attendance for all students instead of just for those students who stop attending. VP Kahler responded since some faculty were forgetting to input dates for any student, Registrar decided to require dates for all students.

How do we poll/survey students regarding a childcare center? Who do we approach about bringing this idea forward? After a spirited discussion S. McCall, A. Miller, M. Barlett, D. Sonne, and E. Brindisi were assigned to look at other schools and ideas for opening a childcare center.

A. Miller raised a concern about transfer evaluations. In the past there was a person/people (typically faculty) who would look at courses and evaluate them. She has not seen this being done for several semesters now. Who is making those decisions? Deans? SSA?

M. Kelly raised a concern about student club advisors. Since many advisors to student clubs are faculty she noted how much more difficult the processes are currently than in past years. She feels there are many unnecessary hurdles that students and advisors have to go through to participate in clubs. Since advisors volunteer their time, a concern was raised that faculty (and indeed students) may abandon club participation in the future.

Chair reminded Caucus members to send any ideas for the next meeting.

Next meeting will take place December 13, 2022 at 230pm on MS Teams.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 221 524 846 489
Passcode: wUywSL

Motion to Adjourn: D. Sonne 1st, M. Kelly 2nd

Caucus adjourned at 430pm.

Roman Santos