

Faculty Caucus minutes**May 9, 2023****230pm****Teams**

Present: M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, M. Cameron, S. Crocker, S. Dar, J. DeTraglia, A. Doughtie, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, V. Fuentes, A. Haines, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, M. Kelly, J. Kinney, M. Kuczinski, A. Lewis, G. Melendez, S. McCall, A. Miller, C. Miller, R. Penner, K. Raab, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, B. Shaw, D. Sonne, D. Stevens, D. Swiss, C. VanName, L. Williams

Call to Order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes:

D. Sonne 1st. G. Melendez 2nd

13 approve, 0 oppose, 3 abstain.

Guests: R. Craft, J. Cusick, N. Chrisman, T. Carter

Guest Speakers N. Chrisman and T. Carter:

Caucus members were updated on the transition to Brightspace. Summer session courses will be using Brightspace (beginning May 22). There has been training ongoing for the past several weeks both in person and online. In addition, both T. Carter and N. Chrisman will be available in PH 300 during the final week of obligation to assist faculty in setting up Brightspace pages.

Some key differences to Brightspace vs Blackboard: IT is now involved in the creation of course sites. Students who add a course are added to the rolls nightly; likewise, students who drop a course are dropped from the rolls nightly. In addition to training there are video tutorials available to help faculty. T. Carter and N. Chrisman also recommend faculty export courses they plan to use, forward the files and they (Chrisman and Carter) can create master sites in Brightspace. After a brief Q and A faculty were told if there is any course/information that faculty would like to keep it should be exported prior to December 2023 since that is when MVCC's contract expires, and the college will no longer have access to Blackboard.

Guest speakers Richard Croft and John Cusik:

R. Croft and J. Cusik are the bookstore directors at Herkimer College and OCC respectively. They shared their experiences with First Day Complete. They spoke about the various components of the program and the positive results at their institutions. In addition to covering material that has already been shared with Caucus, they also gave other details as to how it would work with students' schedules. 35 days before classes start students will receive a welcome email. 30 days before classes, students are asked to confirm their courses and select either delivery or pick up of their materials. If a student adds or drops a course, the materials packet is updated accordingly. Finally, students can decide to opt out of First Day Complete starting two weeks prior to the beginning of classes up until the first census date (a period of about 5 weeks).

J. Cusik shared the success of the program at OCC. Not only has it been convenient for students but also students are ready on the first day of classes. In addition, he shared that on average students are saving on the overall cost of books and materials. A period of Q and A ensued.

DEI: B. Shaw shared his experiences with incorporating diversity in his English 102 class. His goal is to teach students that everyone experiences the human condition, just in different ways. He starts the course with a series of short stories. He has compiled a list of authors that come from different races, genders, sexual orientation, and socio economic backgrounds. The stories themselves all talk about different aspects of racism, classism, sexism, etc. He then shifts the focus to poems that also come from authors of various backgrounds and deal with a variety of subjects. Here he hopes students see the intersectionality of these experiences. Finally B. Shaw focuses on presenting modern music (hip hop) as an art form, just as valid as any other. Specifically the class listens to a podcast that analyzes the album "To Pimp a Butterfly" by Kendrick Lamar. Here students learn that 1. Hip hop is more than just rhyming music. There are themes (hero's Journey, survivor guilt, and self-love) and stories to be told. 2. These themes and stories are linked to the past. Marginalized groups have ALWAYS experienced this. 3. before these messages were shared via poems and stories. Today via music and lyrics. 4. The art forms of today are just as deserving of recognition and study as past art forms.

M. Barlett will conduct a survey to see in which direction the DEI conversation will go next year.

Chair Report: Chair met with VP Squires. If there are, problems with the new phone system contact IT. Everyone needs to use them and get used to them.

VP Squires apologized for the oversight in the COVID announcement. Faculty and staff were to be informed via email prior to the announcement being made over social media.

VP Kahler would like to attend Caucus in the Fall (perhaps October). Opt out language for First Day Complete has been drafted. Communication pertaining to Brightspace is also ready. Fall students will receive an introduction to Brightspace. For summer students it is recommended a video be prepared by faculty

CITE Advisory board volunteers are still needed.

Next Faculty Caucus meeting will be on August 22, 230pm

Old Business: A. Lewis informed Caucus that the final drafts of the Student Class Survey are ready. IR asked for some rewording in the self-assessment questions since the survey should focus on the course. Next semester the survey will be piloted via Survey Monkey.

C Miller 1st A. Radlowski 2nd to endorse the survey pilot in the Fall.

18 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain.

AI committee. Charter is written, still working on committee makeup. Any interest or suggestions should be sent to Caucus Chair

New Business: Caucus elections. DEI committee will remain as is for next year. Caucus Advisory: C. Miller, E. Bush, A. Hazen will continue to serve. 2 additional members are needed.

Nominations: S. Dar self nominates for chair. D. Sonne self nominates for secretary. E. Brindisi and R. Wittenberg self-nominate for Caucus Advisory.

Since all are running un-opposed, all are elected via consensus.

Open Forum: VP Kahler unaware of any issues with grade-change forms (Issue was brought up at the April meeting). Suggested we contact Registrar's office.

Concern over the scheduling of end of semester meetings. Some are taking up grading time.

Next meeting will take place August 22, 2023 at 230pm.

Motion to adjourn: D. Sonne-1st, E. Brindisi-2nd

Caucus adjourned at 437pm

Roman Santos