

Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 17, 2023

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Microsoft TEAMS (virtual)

Attendance: A. Fried, A. Lewis, A. Miller, C. Miller, C. Van Namee, C. Ehrlich, D. Stevens, D. Sonne, E. Bush, E. Brindisi, G. Melendez, J. Ireland, J. Boardman, L. Williams, L. (Guest), L. Charbonneau, M. Barlett, M. Faitell, M. Kuczynski, M. Cameron, R. Huyck, R. Wittenberg, S. Crocker, S. McCall, S. Dar,

Meeting Guests: VPLAA Dr. Lew Kahler, Norma Chrisman, Danielle Del Giudice, Carolyn Boone (Tompkins Cortland Community College)

Meeting called to order at 2:31 PM

1. S. Dar reviewed agenda.

2. **Guest:** VPLAA Dr. Lew Kahler
 - I. Has been hearing about the students having greater need than in the past – some stuff that may be related the function of C3, also getting the impression that there are more mental health concerns, perhaps more behavior. Looking for info on what Faculty is experiencing/hearing. Wants to gather information to understand to work with partners to get help/resources.

- i. Comment/Question: Seeing a dramatic increase of students who don't have the resources to be successful and C3 might not be able to fully handle. At least two students living in their car. Was told that part time students don't qualify for help from C3 – need to check on that. Lots of part time students that need help that they seemingly aren't able to get. *Response: will look into the C3 not being able to help students, doesn't know the answer right now. Long term solution for homelessness locally aren't enough for when homelessness is the only "issue". May have to ask the County for help.*
- ii. Comment/Question: Request for more workshops/education on to how to support students with mental health/trauma/anxiety which prevents students from engaging. *Response: Professional development may have resources to help get faculty resources to types of workshops/trainings. **Asking for faculty to collect a list of what issues you want training on and share so the types of workshops can be sought out.** Also wants to find ways to help our adjunct faculty as well.*
- iii. Comment/Question: Trying to work with students with these needs can take a lot of time (extra meetings, later due dates) and can be distracting from helping the students who come to class. We should aim to create environments

where students try and get to know each other, communicate, to lessen the isolation the students may feel. Pandemic students are delayed. *Response: Agree that pandemic students are behind, and we will be facing this for a while. We need resources that can help everyone, how to care for yourself while you are caring for others (like putting the O₂ mask on yourself before others on the plane).*

- iv. Comment/Question: Would like Narcan training. Can our counselors provide group therapy? It can be a good environment for students. There are groups in the community, but it would be an out-of-pocket cost for students, so want to see this at the college. *Response: Will raise the questions and see what we can do. Not sure of rules, but happy to ask the question and see if it is possible to implement. Will also look into the Narcan training. Will look into both and let Chairperson know in their meeting*
- v. Comment/Question: Peer counseling now available through the Learning Commons
- vi. Comment/Question: There is a lot more we have to do to bring students to the level. Even more so than what is usually remediated by the Learning Commons. *Response: We are not seeing the “traditional” students as we used to. Trend in part time students has increased – about 50/50 – education that is going to fit into the rest of their*

lives. Could be because of cost. We are going to have to change what we do to help the students because the students most likely aren't going to change. Preparing for shift in student success numbers.

- vii. Comment/Question: Can remedial courses come back? *Response: Doesn't think we will go back to.*
- viii. Comment/Question: Some classes sizes were increased after covid reductions, and now with students with a lot more needs, it is very difficult- students not reading, using tutorials, other resources, and it is exhausting holding hands – it's not just one or two, it can be like 10 per class. Is there any way to reduce the class sizes. *Response: Enrollment is better, but Fund balance is depleted. Would like to get to a place where we aren't budgeting down, hesitant to jump into that as a solution until we are in a more stable position. The last few years have been difficult, and we need to find more stability before we do it. Can't say yes now, but isn't saying no. Seeing signs of recovery in terms of the budgets, but still need to play fiscally conservatively until we are in a more stable position.*
- ix. Comment/Question: VP needs to leave, so any other comments, please put in chat, send to

Chair. *Response: Thank you for having me. Would like to do this again, this is helpful.*

3. DEI Conversations: Guest: Carolyn Boone (TCCC),
Presentation: “Social Justice Model”

- I. PowerPoint will be posted in TEAMS.
 - i. Comment/Question: Our OAR people at MV do an amazing job, especially given the sometimes limited resources
 - ii. Comment/Question: Talking to students one-on-one can be time consuming, do you start before the semester? *Response: Yes, but students sometimes choose to wait to see if they want to use the accommodations. Have seen an increase in students making a request.*
 - iii. *This Social Justice model can take a long time to set up as it can get involved – taking upwards of an hour per student.*

4. Approval of September 2023 minutes: L. Williams, moved to approve, C. Miller, seconded.

Passed using TEAMS poll (17), verbal (1): 18 YES, 0 No, 0 Abstain

- No questions or comments on the meeting minutes

5. Chair Report: S. Dar (Slides)

- I. Tom Squires

- i. Brought up issue of commuter students not being able to buy food
 - 1. Response: Buy commuter plan and green container so can take it from the residence hall. Can also order grab and go ahead of time. Can't open the Hawks Nest for longer hours. Starbucks is not coming back.

II. Lew Kahler:

- i. Advising day is late in the semester, what is the benefit now that we are doing yearly schedule.
 - 1. Response: for now, calendar is approved until 2026. Will be able to reevaluate before next calendar cycle.

ii. Fall break –

- 1. To get fall break, will need to give something up to make time- will have to have discussion.

- a. Comment/Response: Fall semester, where we need the extra time, Advising Day isn't as needed. Can be helpful in the Spring, but why are we taking that time to schedule students who are already pre-scheduled? For students, it is too much to not have the Fall break, other Colleges have it, it isn't sustainable to not give students a break.

- iii. Starfish replacement (Ellucian Advise) – waiting to launch because so many other things were

launched this semester. Shooting for Fall 2024 implementation.

- III. Spreadsheet for feedback about AAP
 - i. Can remain anonymous or put in your name – link in TEAMS
- IV. Remember to visit Faculty Caucus TEAMS channel.
 - i. Send ideas for agenda items to sdar@mvcc.edu

6. New/Old Business:

Guest: Norma Chrisman, discussion about Brightspace

- I. The current widget layout isn't working as anticipated.
 - i. Work to do will display only about 6 items – students need to click in to see more. If work to do isn't tied to an activity, system doesn't know that student has done the work, now seeing it will keep up to 12 weeks of work to do
 - 1. Option 1 – Deal with it – Students may see work that they have already done
 - 2. Option 2 – Completely remove the widget college wide (can't choose, has to be all or nothing)
 - ii. Comment: Student can click “manual complete”.
Response: This depends on how instructor set up the system
 - iii. Comment/Question: Homework from external sites doesn't get tracked in the widget.

Response: If it is an external link to publisher, they won't see that due date in Brightspace. Students can use the calendar. Calendar can be moved into the Work-to-do space, so student could use that.

- iv. Comment/Question: Will the calendar show one course or all courses. Response: By default, they will see just by course, but students can change it to see all courses.*
- v. Comment/Question: How would you like us to move forward with making the decision? Response: Didn't want to make the decision without enough input. Who should we run this by? Senate/Caucus/Students?*
- vi. Comment/Question: Can we email out a blanket poll? Response: Will run by IR to make sure that is OK.*
- vii. Comment/Question: Student seems to like the work-to-do so it would be good to include the student voice.*
- viii. Comment/Question: THANK YOU TO NORMA AND TABBI. We couldn't have gotten through this transition without all the hard work you two have put in.*

Guest: Danielle Del Giudice, Peer Support – Learning Commons

- I.** PowerPoint with Video presentation in Teams page

- i.* Please share this new resource with students – students can book a 40–minute peer-to-peer listening session on the Learning Commons page.

7. Open Forum:

I. FCCC Highlights:

- i.* The faculty should be paying attention to upcoming changes in Seamless Transfer.
 - 1.** If you are aware of transfer issues, please share. Don't assume if you have made people aware of an issue in the past, the people that had that information are gone. If you have an issue, let A. Miller know.
 - 2.** Prior learning assessment policy update. Need to have a conversation about what we are willing to accept.
 - 3.** Dual enrollment issues: SUNY wants more dual enrollment.
- ii.* Let A. Miller know if there are issues/concerns.

II. Comment/Question: Concern about role as advisor. Should Faculty take a back seat to SSAs? Faculty making plans for student, but students are being put in majors as a placeholder. What is the faculty member to do?

- i.* Some faculty stay back and let SSA take care of the initial plan, then have a later appointment with students.

- ii. Some faculty are seeing less students, also see students not getting “the best” advice from SSAs. What happened to the Mentor path that was originally supposed to be a part of the guided pathways?
- iii. Faculty cannot see notes that SSAs make so it makes it difficult to help students.
- iv. The chair will talk with Lew about Faculty concerns.

8. Faculty Journal Club – Paper: Occurrence of Microplastic in raw and treated Drinking Water. Presenter: Devin Sonne

9. **Adjournment:** Motion L. Williams, seconded M. Kuczynski, unanimously approved.

I. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM

Next meeting: November 21st, 2023, 2:30 PM – Virtual only (on MS Teams)

Secretary: Devin Sonne