

Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 17th, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: TEAMS

Attendance:

A. Fried, A. Lewis, A. L. Miller, A. Radlowski, B. Seaton, B. Rathbun, C. Van Namee, C. Ehrlich, D. Stevens, D. Sonne, E. Bush, E. Brindisi, G. Melendez, J. Ireland, K. Reilly, K. Raab, L. Williams, L. Charboneau, M. Barlett, M. Faitell, M. Kuczynski, M. Cameron, R. Huyck, R. Wittenberg, S. Jackson, S. Dar, S. Crocker, S. McCall

Meeting Guests: A. Nolan, T Marshall, H. Doty

Meeting called to order at 2:30 PM

1. **Review of Agenda and Agenda updates**
2. **DEI Conversations: Title VI Review: A. Nolan, Compliance Officer, and T. Marshall, CDO**
 - I. SUNY has asked for more compliance and latest changes
 - II. **POWERPOINT**
 - i. Reviewed recent changes and requirements for Title VI in Higher Education
 - ii. Must balance Title VI while protecting the First Amendment
 - iii. New Policy endorsed by Senate, going to Board for approval
 - iv. MVCC has a new Title VI coordinator position (as a part of the new VP of Student Affairs position)
 - v. Slide on Key Responsibilities for Faculty and Staff at MVCC
 - vi. A. Nolan is available for any questions about Title VI
 - vii. Question/comment: if there is an ESL student and the Faculty member provides resources for the student that they aren't taking advantage of, how does the Faculty member know if they are doing enough to not constitute a Title VI violation: Response: if the student comes to you and you provide resources, it is on the student to use the resources and you have done your due diligence.
 - viii. Reminder that Title VI does not protect for Religion, however there are other venues for that
 - ix. T. Marshall is creating a website from his office which will provide resources for students
3. **Calendar Committee update: H. Doty**
 - I. Items Committee is considering when creating the calendar proposal:
 - i. Need equal numbers of MTWRF in calendar
 - ii. Need/desire for a break in October
 1. 2026-2027 Academic year calendar proposal will include a 2-day break in October (Monday of Columbus Day with the subsequent Tuesday)
 - iii. Interest in returning to a 15-week semester –
 1. Committee will work on a one-year proposal to submit to for feedback (instead of the "normal" three-year proposal)
 2. Will have to change class times (length) for a 15-week semester

- iv. Advising Day – conversations of effectiveness of Advising Day, consensus from Deans side seems to be there does not need to be a full day “off” for advising – can still host advising events while not cancelling classes for the day
 - v. Looking for Faculty input
- II. Discussion points
 - i. Question: do we have data on the effectiveness of a 14-week semester vs 15-week semester? Has it affected completion? Response: The 14-week idea came from allowing the semester to start after Labor Day to increase enrollment, but no apparent benefit from the 14-week semester directly on the enrollment
 - ii. Question: Why do we need an equal number of MTWRFs? Response: This is to ensure that classes that meet once a week have an equal number of meeting times
 - iii. Question: Would Spring Advising Day also be removed from the calendar? Response: Yes, it would come off the front or back of the semester.
- 4. **Approval of May 2024 minutes:** E. Brindisi moved to approve May 2024 minutes meeting with minor changes; E. Bush, seconded.
 - Passed TEAMS Poll (18 Approved, 0 No, 2 Abstain = 20 total responses)
- 5. **Chair Report:** S. Dar – Chair
 - I. Review Caucus structure
 - II. VP Kahler
 - i. VP Kahler will visit Caucus in October
 - ii. VP Kahler wants to encourage faculty to provide Feedback on SUNY Gen Ed
 - iii. Watermark trainings will be coming – if we would like J. Lynch to come talk to Caucus, he can come and talk about changes
 - III. VP Squires
 - i. AC in S&T building is fixed now
 - ii. Elevators in Rome will be fixed in the Fall
 - iii. Kitchen in ACC will be renovated in the Summer 2025
 - iv. Field House Floor updated
 - v. Classroom furniture will be updated (want Faculty suggestions)
 - vi. Can provide list of programs opted out of AAP
- 6. **New Business**
 - I. **Tutor Appreciation week:** B. Rathbun
 - i. Week of October 7th – please come participate in whatever capacity you can – reach out if you want to help
 - 1. Can leave a note for a tutor/ take a picture with a tutor
 - 2. Lots of little things since the LC has been busy
 - 3. May put together a website
 - 4. Hope to have more information over the next couple of weeks
 - II. **Active Shooter/ Emergency Response:** E. Bush
 - i. Attended Institute in the wake of last semester’s lockdown
 - ii. Several items on the website needs to be updated/is in the process of being updated

- iii. Materials that were distributed during the institute are available in the TEAMS folder for the September meeting
- iv. Steer specific questions to Public Safety
- v. Comment: If Faculty Caucus would like, can invite new chief to meeting later this semester

III. SUNY Gen Ed. Guidelines: Feedback & Questions, A. Miller

- i. Reminder to look at email from A. Miller and all Gen Ed Revision attached documents
- ii. Faculty should fill out survey from SUNY by September 27th
- iii. **Comment:** Request for Faculty to comment in Survey about how much work/time goes into making decisions/updates
- iv. SUNY wants updates implemented for **Fall 25**
 - 1. Comment: beholden to 64 credit limit while being made to add additional Gen Eds (we need more time!)

IV. Dual Enrollment Policy Development, A. Miller

- i. Concurrent Enrollment issues are happening, a white paper was recently published by some Chief Academic Offices (available in [TEAMS](#) meetings)
- ii. Faculty wants a role in assessing and it is a Middle States Requirement
- iii. There is currently no policy from SUNY or State Ed on how to do this. Want to get in front of this as an issue
- iv. FCCC will be discussing in October, please submit questions/comments to A. Miller

V. Burning Questions Document ([Linked here](#))

- i. Add anything that you want to discuss in Caucus here

7. Open Forum

- I. Questions about how it works for Programs that have Opted out of Academic Advantage Pack
- II. Wellness Council – wants work on updating walking trail – help make walkways even, beautifying (planting native/diverse), add signs, exercise trails. Does faculty want to help? Perhaps have clubs help out?

8. Adjournment: Motion S. Crocker, E. Brindisi, seconded. Unanimously approved.

I. Meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM

Next meeting: on TEAMS on October 22, 2024, 2:30 PM

Secretary: Devin Sonne