

## **Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: TEAMS

**Attendance:** A. Fried, A. Lewis, A. L. Miller, B. Seaton, C. Miller, C. Van Namee, C. Ehrlich, D. Stevens, D. Sonne, D. Swiss, E. Bush, E. Brindisi, G. Melendez, H. Forbes, H. Doty, J. Qureshi, J. Ireland, K. Reilly, K. Raab, L. Williams, L. Charboneau, M. Barlett, M. Faitell, M. Kuczynski, M. Cameron, N. Chrisman, R. Huyck, R. Wittenberg, S. Dar, S. McCall, T. Carter, T. Lock

**Meeting Guests:** L. Kahler, A H. Doty, J. Dewan

### **Meeting called to order at 2:31 PM**

#### **1. Review of Agenda and Agenda updates**

#### **2. New Business (Guests)**

##### **I. Chat with the VPLAA: L. Kahler**

- i. VPLAA thanked Caucus for bringing him in, appreciates the ability to chat
- ii. Has been keeping an eye on the Gen Ed framework – glad feedback has been coming from Community College faculty – concerned about implementing timeline. He is a member of the CAO, knows that their association has spoken with the SUNY Provost about the timeline being unrealistic. Has received no other response other than official SUNY responses. Paying attention to what is going on
- iii. Has been focused on preparing for Middle States upcoming audit. Housed a log to track steps taken through COVID to show how decisions were made during that time frame and feels confident that we can show how decisions were made during COVID to show Middle States. Feels good about where we are going into it
- iv. Questions/Comment: Concern about filling out assessment forms each semester – challenging to collect from Adjuncts. Response: Watermark software is being implemented to help with this process. Will handle multiple levels of the assessment, including program level of assessment. Middle States teams will be able to add their information, and the software will help prepare the assessment. Watermark does integrate with Brightspace so you can build the assessments into the gradebook, which will mean that Faculty will not have to fill out assessment paperwork, as this information can be pulled. VPLAA does not mandate this so if faculty opt out of adding this into Brightspace, faculty will have to fill out paperwork. Follow up Questions/Comment: is there a sense of when training will begin? Response: not exactly sure, but soon – guessing around the end of the semester there will be more information.
- v. Questions/Comment: Where are we with revising Promotion packet review? Response: Have to have a conversation with HR – none of the players are here from when the conversation started. Some pieces still need to be looked at since part of the process falls within the collective bargaining agreement. The first conversations may have been pre-COVID, and some conversations occurred during COVID, but need to restart the conversations.

- vi. Questions/Comment: Nutrition program and problems with SUNY – the new pathway is impossible for a Community College to create as they preclude a Community College from being able to have enough Gen Ed courses in the pathway. Please keep an eye out for any more pathways that don't make sense that way. Response: I don't have the program level expertise but ask that Faculty take a look at the program level transfer pathways to see if they make sense, if you see these anomalies should be brought up by Chief Academic Officers (CAO) and Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) as changes should not be made without input. Recently we found out that our Program Reviewer has changed.
- vii. Questions/Comment: Last year an anomaly was found changes being made on SUNY website to a pathway without notification or going through the proper channels. Please let FCCC Rep know if you come across any of these. Response: please also copy VPLAA on any of these issues.
- viii. Questions/Comment: Concern about President's emphasis on AI. Not happy with Fall Opening meeting presenter as they were dismissive of any concerns - issues with creating "personas" of people (i.e., Latino College President) and how that helps to quiet those voices. There is a concern that the students are losing their critical thinking skills. Response: The best answer we have right now is that a group is put together to explore ideas. AI is a reality that we cannot ignore or ban. How we respond to that is going to have to be worked out, it will be an ongoing conversation and will probably change over time. VPLAA is not aware of an official position from the College. Questions/Comment: Hope that how AI is dealt with will be left to the discretion of the instructor (as per academic freedom). Response: as per a conversation with a SUNY member, they don't see a SUNY wide policy coming through now on how to deal with it. There may be SUNY AI competency in the future.

## II. Winter Session: H. Doty, J. Dewan

- i. Information about what has happened to Intersession over the past few years. Enrollment numbers are dwindling. Proposing to no longer offer the winter session beginning this year. A lot of work goes in behind the scenes to run these. Question/Comment: Library is not open during the ajar, so students are missing support for 25-30% of the session. Questions/Comment: Makes sense as there is a lot of work that goes into serving a few students. Questions/Comment: If there were a lot of strong students that it served it would be possibly worth it, but in many cases Intersession is being used by students who dropped the class during the semester to lighten their load, however these are students who struggle in college and may struggle with the condensed nature of Intersession classes. Response: The breakeven point for an Intersession class is 20 students. College is losing money and there is a lot of confusion and frustration on student's part (how does financial aid work, etc.) when it comes to Intersession classes. Question/Comment: Some veterans do not receive benefits when not enrolled, so they may be enrolling in Winter Session to retain benefits. Chancellor pushing the benefit of short-term classes for returning adult students. Questions/Comment: Do we have information on why enrollment is low during the Intersession? Response: not really, lots of possible reasons. Question/Comment: can we cross-register students who need an intersession

class at another college? Response: yes. Question/Comment: are you seeking a vote to endorse? Does this have to go to Board? Response: Yes, we will be seeking a vote at the next Senate meeting. Needs to go to the board soon because of the time crunch.

3. **Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, September 17, 2024**, E. Brindisi moved to approve May 2024 minutes meeting with minor changes; E. Bush, seconded.

- Passed TEAMS Poll (20 Approved, 0 No, 3 Abstain = 23 total responses)

4. **Chair's report: S. Dar**

**I. Pre and Post Caucus meeting with VP Kahler**

**II. Meeting with Tom Squires**

- i. New S&T building fences might go up in May
- ii. Different policies (plastics, transportation etc.)
- iii. Balloons are not allowed as of tomorrow

**III. Next Meeting Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.**

5. **Old Business: None**

6. **New Business**

**I. Questions about BERT: A. Fried**

- i. The goal is that the Senate will ask Cabinet to review and revise the Behavioral Evaluation Response Team (BERT) process. There needs to be a timeline. And a minimum response.
- ii. Gave an account of a recent issue which highlights the need for a review/revision of the BERT process.
- iii. Comment/Response: Fully support this revision process, thank you for bringing it up. Many comments were made about the shortcomings of the current BERT process.

**II. FCCC Updates: A. Miller**

- i. **PRESENTATION**
- ii. New York state is one of only two states that doesn't have a concurrent enrollment law. FCCC is amplifying this issue. Trying to get a policy drafted through shared governance.
- iii. Academic Affairs Committee is working on updating the transfer guidelines (last updated in 2012) – looking for people who want to work on assessment. Combination of two- and four-year faculty
- iv. Campus and Student Life Committee – Students face difficulties with translation related to admission/financial aid. Putting together a Green Paper on how to add in translation services, add in fact sheets, etc.
- v. Campus Governance Leaders – planning Governance 101 for stakeholders.
- vi. Governance Committee – working on making sure the four new Community College Presidents have access to binders that were created about norms.
- vii. DEI Committee – creating videos about civil discourse and the importance of voting.
- viii. Executive Team wrote a budget resolution – information on PowerPoint. Please share the one-sheet with Legislators.

- ix. Chancellor was asked about budget - what happened to the 5 million that went to Nursing, 3 million went for Mental Health (~100,000/ campus)
- x. New York state only spends about 10% on higher ed, national average is ~11. Need unrestricted funding to help pay for more faculty, etc.
- xi. Resolution about Process rather than on competencies. Distinct difference between appointed faculty members and elected faculty members. Will be sending out the resolution soon.
- xii. White paper about concurrent enrollment was sent out previously.
- xiii. Question/Comment: Did FCCC talk about the revised discussion draft from October – there will be minimal changes. Response: They were not seeking any more input, not actionable items.

### III. Computer Labs in Wilcox Hall: R. Huyck

- i. Want to overhaul one of the computer labs in WH 147,148, 149, 150 wing. Move computers from around the room to a more “classroom” style. If you are using filing cabinets, please pick up your materials. Is there anyone using the room that does not want the change? At least WH 150 be changed over for a trial run to see if it works.

### 7. Open Forum

- i. Comment/Question: Students need coats. Load up College Community Connections (C3) if available
- ii. Comment/Question: In AB, students sitting on the floor – where CCED is, would be a good place to add some quiet seating
- iii. Comment/Question: Concerns about the new location of the S&T building. It seems like students might lose parking, which could cause inconvenience. Is there a better alternative to consider?
- iv. Comment/Question: Confusion about who to call in case of emergency, 911 or Public Safety

### 8. Adjournment Motion E. Bush, Seconded C. Miller. Unanimously approved.

- o Meeting adjourned at 4:39 PM.

**Next meeting November 19, 2024, 2:30 PM on TEAMS**

Secretary: D. Sonne