

## Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 25th, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: TEAMS

### Attendance:

A. Fried, A. Miller, C. Miller, C. VanNamee, C. Ehrlich, D. McDermott, D. Stevens, D. Sonne, D. Swiss, E. Bush, E. Brindisi, F. Vellone, H. Forbes, J. Ireland, L. Charbonneau, M. Barlett, M. Kuczynski, M. Faitell, R. Santos, R. Wittenberg, S. Mead-Shepardson, S. Dar, S. Crocker, S. McCall, T. Lock

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

1. **Review of Agenda**
2. **Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, E. Bush moved to approve, E. Brindisi, seconded.
  - Passed TEAMS Poll (17 Approved, 0 No, 2 Abstain = 19 total responses)
3. **Chair's report: S. Dar**
  - I. **Pre and Post Caucus meeting with VP Kahler**
    - i. VP Kahler will visit Faculty Caucus in March – any questions for him?
    - ii. Ideas for professional development? Let CITE know
    - iii. Classroom updates (suggestions)
      1. Comment: we should include student input
  - II. **Meeting with Tom Squires**
    - i. Could not meet
  - III. **Meeting with HR**
    - i. HR is working on revising the Hiring Guidelines
    - ii. Screening Committee structure – number of people on committee, how it is formed/how people are chosen to be on committee
    - iii. Faculty on screening committee for Dean level positions
    - iv. Comments:
      1. The power that the hiring manager has over the process should be considered
      2. Timelines often feel rushed
4. **DEI Conversations: B.I.A.S. (Bias Incident Accountability and Support) Team Charter: M. Barlett**
  - I. Purpose: To create a source of accountability and resolution for those who have had a bias or microaggression experience and educate the MVCC community on bias-related and hateful acts. To provide (or recommend) tools, in both a timely and productive manner, for action, empowerment, assistance, and communication in the event of a bias incident or hate crime.
  - II. [BIAS TEAM CHARTER FINAL.docx](#)
  - III. Many SUNY schools have a similar system, SUNY has asked that all schools implement a system like this

- IV. [Hawkeye Tip](#) can currently accept similar reports – official report procedures will be developed as this Team develops

5. **Old Business:**

I. **Academic Calendar Discussion, D. Sonne**

- i. [Proposed amendment to the 2026-2029 calendar to.docx](#)
- ii. "I vote in favor of bringing this proposal to the college senate meeting in March." Motion by E. Brindisi, seconded by A. Miller.
  1. Passed TEAMS Poll (15 Approved, 1 No, 2 Abstain = 18 total responses)

6. **New Business:**

I. **Resolution on Mohawk Valley Community College's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, M. Barlett**

- i. [Resolution](#)
- ii. Vote to endorse the Resolution on Mohawk Valley Community College's Commitment to Diversity. Motion by M. Barlett motions, seconded by S. Dar
- iii. "I vote to endorse the Resolution on Mohawk Valley Community College's Commitment to Divers"
1. Passed TEAMS Poll (13 Approved, 0 No, 5 Abstain = 19 total responses)

7. **Open forum**

- I. Food availability – on the weekends there is no breakfast so athletes with early morning practice do not have access to food on campus
- II. Some international students (athletes) are reporting that the conditions that they are living in are difficult: not having food, transportation issues, landlord issues, substandard living conditions
  - i. Mandated academic support would be helpful
- III. When will faculty parking be closed off for the new construction? What type of parking will be available, especially for night classes? Can we lobby to have some kind of EV charging access
- IV. Who manages the Starbucks coffee machine? It is always a mess, unsightly, and out of cups
- V. Task force looking at drafting policy/guidelines on the use of AI – recommendations will go to the Senate on March 4<sup>th</sup> and the Board in either April or May – looking for input – [MVCC AI Taskforce Guidelines](#)

8. **Adjournment** Motion S. Crocker, Seconded F. Vellone. Unanimously approved.

- The meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM.
- **Next meeting: March 11, 2025, at 2:30 PM on TEAMS**