

Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes
March 2025

Faculty Caucus Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 11th, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: TEAMS

Attendance:

M. Barlett, E. Brindisi, E. Bush, M. Cameron, L. Charbonneau S. Crocker, S. Dar, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, J. Ireland, R. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, A. Lewis, T. Lock, S. McCall, D. McDermott, S. McManus, A. Miller, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, D. Sonne, D. Stevens, D. Swiss, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Guests: L. Kahler, T. Marshall, B. Dixon, S. Miller

Meeting called to order at 2:31 PM

1. Review of Agenda

2. Chat with VP L. Kahler

I. Address concerns about Executive Orders pertaining to DEI and other Academic issues

i. VP. L. Kahler attended [Chancellor Meeting on DEI.pdf](#) -he encourages faculty to read the document

1. Message: Courts has put much of what is in executive orders on hold
2. The adopted SUNY Board rules around graduation requirements regarding DEI, and every campus must have a DEI officer, and other DEI initiatives remain in place and SUNY will challenge to keep these requirements in place
3. Chancellor does not want us to engage in “anticipatory over-compliance”.
4. We will comply with Federal Law, but we will not define Federal Law, so need further clarification before we can know where everything is going
5. Our campus cannot act independently from SUNY
6. Administration is watching closely

ii. Budget Season is here and taking up a lot of time

1. President VanWagoner will be having open forums
2. Feeling better this year going into the budget cycle than any previous year. Still waiting for all budgets to come in to see exactly where we are – but revenue generation, Fund Balance, assistance from the State, workforce development – are helping to generate a positive trend

iii. The Dean searches will commence soon

1. Job openings will be posted soon

iv. Question/Comments:

1. Students, especially LGBTQ+ and Trans, are afraid – is there messaging going out to students on this? *Response: will work with Dr. Marshall and VP of Student Affairs Dr. Pine to craft a message to send out – Also, Dr. Marshall and VP of Students Affairs Dr. Pine will be going to Student Congress after Spring Break to talk to students (help give students assurance that they will have a safe space to study)*
2. Do we have programs for which funding can be pulled by the Federal Government? *Response: From initial analysis, outside of Title IV funding*

we don't see a place where if Federal funding was cut off that we would have much of an issue currently. Things can change, but as of now, it looks like other cuts could be manageable.

- v. *As VP Kahler learns anything from SUNY he will send communications out. He is grateful and appreciates all the work Faculty does with the students*

3. DEI Conversations: DEI Updates, T. Marshall

- I. Part of a SUNY DEI Professional cohort
- II. Say the words Diversity, Equity, Inclusion – to help reinforce what the work that is being done is – many against “DEI” don’t understand what it is
- III. National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant from Upstate Makes was pulled
- IV. Remain calm, we are doing great things with our students, and this is more important than the rhetoric we are hearing right now – keep doing what YOU (Faculty) are doing, you are doing a great job, and I (T. Marshall) will be here for you
- V. Questions/Comments:
 - i. Comment: Swastika found drawn in the men’s bathroom in the Science and Technology building. *Response: file a bias report and he will follow up on this incident.*

4. New Business:

- I. **Applied Learning Workgroup Update, S. Miller, R. Kelly**
 - i. Presentation on Applied Learning
- II. **Gen. Ed. Committee Updates, B. Dixon**
 - i. Shared results of fall’s Gen Ed assessments and looking for feedback on how to present data

5. Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, February 25, 2025

- I. E. Bush moved to approve, M. Kuczynski, seconded. Passed TEAMS Poll (14 Approved, 0 No, 3 Abstain = 17 total responses)

6. Chair’s report: S. Dar

- I. **VP Kahler**
 - i. International Athletes
 - ii. DEI on campus
- II. **VP Squires**
 - i. Vending machines in AB
 - ii. Weekends Breakfast for Athletes
 - iii. Classroom furniture
 - iv. PA Parking lot update
 - v. EV (electric vehicle) Charging Stations
 - vi. New S&T Building (Summer 2027)
 - vii. American Dining Food Labeling (Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten Free, Halal, etc.)
- III. **Senate Meeting (February)**
 - i. Items Presented (First Read)
 - 1. AI Taskforce update – Proposed AI guidelines
 - 2. Applied Learning Workgroup – New recommendations

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3. BIAS Team Charter
4. Amendment to Calendar

ii. Next Caucus Meeting April 15, 2025, on TEAMS

7. **Old Business: APSC Updates, S. McCall**

- I. Tracking of Academic Policy violations – want to develop a dynamic form to track violations that Faculty can use, especially for when the violation only results in a one-on-one with the Professor for Deans to see a larger trend and for Faculty to have record.

8. **Open forum**

- I. Redesign to WH 150 to forward facing
 - i. Get rid of Whiteboard/Projector – get a 100” One Screen that you can write on
 - ii. Feasibility of an all in one 2-in-1 monitor up front - will allow for more room

9. **Adjournment**

- I. S. Crocker motions to adjourn, A. Miller seconded. Unanimously approved.
- II. **Next meeting: April 15th, 2025, at 2:30 PM on TEAMS**

Secretary: Devin Sonne