

MVCC Senate Faculty Caucus

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 Minutes

2pm – PH 300

Present: C Miller (Chair), J Baumann, C Bolton, E Bush, L Charbonneau, A Doughtie, A Haines, D Kelly, R Labuz, A Radlowski, J Roberts, N Rosero, G Searles, R Thomas, J Wilcox

Guests: Tom Squires, Franca Armstrong, Kristen Riley

1. Christine Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.
2. The minutes of the August 25th meeting were approved.
3. Christine Miller noted in her opening remarks that President VanWagoner indicated he had left an open time slot in his monthly schedule for the Caucus, and would be able to attend whenever needed.
4. There was discussion about how to disseminate information about the discussions at the caucus to other concerned parties. It was suggested that Christine should make a report on the finding from the caucus meeting to the senate at each meeting. Don Kelly indicated he reports to the board each month and can present information there as needed. Information can also be shared at the President's cabinet meetings and with VPLAA Eannace as needed by Don or Christine.
5. Franca Armstrong, Tom Squires and Kristen Riley made a presentation about the new furniture that will be used by the faculty in the front of the classrooms following the Rome Campus renovations. Three different options were displayed. The attendees agreed that in order to please the widest variety of instructional styles a movable lectern and a combined computer station/work table would be the best option. Kristen indicated the higher part of the combined station could be placed on either the left or right to prevent blocking the board area in the classrooms. R Labuz indicated he would like additional storage for items instructors need to carry. Franca will return to next month's meeting with a movable lectern for people to examine. Franca and Tom indicated they would like to be sure faculty are happy with the furniture being purchased and would like feedback. They also indicated that the furniture for the faculty offices would be the same as the furniture recently purchased for Utica offices; a 72 inch desk, bookcase, lateral file cabinet and 2 guest chairs whenever possible. Don Kelly and Joyce Baumann volunteered to let people look at theirs if they wanted to see what the newer furniture looks like.
6. Christine presented a comment on OPEN SUNY and our visibility as a campus. There appears to be some question about how we can market our classes to increase enrollment. Some of the questions that arose were whether we should be marketing to transfer students and whether we should be marketing to the local community. Ron Labuz indicated we may actually lose more students than we gain depending on how we market the courses. Christine agreed to contact the person with the original comment again to get a better perspective of what they would like to see done.
7. There was a general discussion concerning the FCCC memorandum on Emerging Trends in Education and Campus Governance. The memorandum indicated that in light of the multitude of changes that have occurred and that appear to be on the horizon, community colleges should create, or charge an existing committee with the responsibility of researching and addressing emerging educational issues. Don Kelly proposed that the Senate Faculty caucus was the logical

committee to perform such a function on our campus, the motion was accepted by the committee. It was also agreed that Christine Miller as chair, should be the point of contact for the list serve that would be disseminating some of the information. The faculty caucus would discuss and research the issues and make recommendations to the senate for action. Don indicated some of the items in the near future include:

- a. SUNY Excels
 - b. Diversity Task Force
 - c. Quant Way/ Stat Way
 - d. Applied Learning
 - e. CC Regional Councils
 - f. Guidelines for Applied Learning
 - g. Completion Agenda
 - h. Competency Based Education
 - i. Credit for Prior Learning
8. Ron Labuz made a short presentation on the decision to change the bookstore from a private vendor to Follett. He indicated that for the last 3 years the bookstore had been losing 6 figures/year with a loss as high as \$700,000 one year. Ron indicated that money from the bookstore is used to fund equipment purchases, and without funds from the bookstore many equipment purchases such as laptops would not be possible. The Auxiliary Services asked the old bookstore ownership for a growth plan, and nothing concrete was supplied. The decision was made to look for a new vendor and Follett was selected. Follett indicated they would have more used books, rentals, and e-texts available for students. Follett also indicated they would be marking the books up 25% over wholesale to students. R Thomas and J Baumann both indicated they had contacted the publishing companies and knew of instances where the prices to students were 50 to 90 % higher than the cost the publisher was charging the bookstore. Ron indicated that faculty should send specific instances of excessive price hikes to the Auxiliary Services Board, or himself. There was also discussion about the lack of books and supplies at the beginning of the year. Alex Haines indicated his texts were three weeks late arriving, and Joyce Baumann indicated safety equipment and notebooks for laboratory students were not available for nearly 3 weeks into the semester. Ron indicated that may have been due to the late decision about hiring Follett. Discussion followed about how the excessively high costs hurts our students with the least resources the most. With the highest number of PELL students at any community college we should be looking for ways to help these students purchase reasonably priced books. Ron indicated the college was looking for ways that students could use their financial aid money to purchase books using the bookstore as a point of contact from other sources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Baumann