

FACULTY CAUCUS MINUTES
Tuesday, April 18, 2017
2:15PM PH 300

Present: J. Baumann, L. Charbonneau, E. Cormican, A. Doughtie, A. Haines-Stephan, D. Kelly, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, J. Roberts

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus was called to order at 2:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting on March 21, 2017, were approved with some corrections made.

CHAIR REMARKS

- Feminine products will be available in each campus building.
- C. Miller attended the SUNY Regional Meeting (remotely)
 - Coming from Alex Cartwright, to learn about each community college's challenges & needs
 - Concerns about on how changes to dual credit and the Excelsior scholarship will impact enrollment
- APSC is continuing its work on micro-credentials

FCCC PLENARY FOLLOW UP

- Advocacy for funding
 - Request to "hold harmless" didn't work
 - Need to be more organized & take charge earlier
- New chancellor will be announced soon
- SUNY general education revisions
 - Not much is known at the moment
 - There will be a retreat on April 25th
 - Will need to include changes in Middlestates
- Rubric to help colleges assess the success of shared governance
 - Finding a way to involve faculty in presidential search committees
 - Find a way for caucus senators to communicate better with their constituents, and to get constituents more involved in the dialogue
- Panel on faculty involvement in presidential searches
 - 6 community colleges recently held presidential searches, with varying levels of faculty involvement in the searches
 - FCCC wants to create a list of best practices
- Communication between the Board of Trustees & the College is important
- TeachNY is a substantial revision of teacher preparation
 - Students are not performing well on tests, which began the conversation on changing on teachers are trained
 - Yet no evidence to indicate a direct correlation between student test results and teaching; too many variables that can't be controlled

- Exit Survey
 - Faculty want students to have meaningful experiences & to succeed, so need to find a way to collect data that explains how & why some students leave
 - SUNY wants a graduate survey 6 months afterwards, but there's a poor response rate
 - EMC is also investigating strengthening the alumni relations office
 - Still doesn't answer question of why students don't complete
 - When somebody drops a class, try to find them
 - Hard to contact & get them to respond
- Conversation about the SUNY free tuition
 - Budget was still being worked on when the Plenary was held
 - FCCC hasn't taken a position on it, yet
 - Some things to take into consideration:
 - Marketing will have to evolve
 - 4-year schools will raise their standards
 - Students still have to pay room & board
 - Could boost local people attendance
 - Post-Labor Day start may work in our favor
 - Increase in enrollment in trades; decrease in liberal arts
 - Developmental courses are not covered
 - Concern about which programs will be available at which colleges in the same region

FACULTY PROMOTIONS PROCESS DISCUSSION

Some potential changes to the promotions process are being discussed, so C. Miller reached out to Elin Cormican (chair of the promotions committee) for feedback

- Committee members are frustrated by how packets are put together, in part due to length, poor grammar, and poor organization of materials
 - Faculty are unclear about what is "enough." For example, what is considered the appropriate amount of committee work?
 - There are differences in what faculty are told and what's written in the handout
 - The committee does not want minutes from committees you're on or every email you ever sent. But a letter of support from the committee chair would be appropriate
 - Suggested length is no more than two 3-inch binders
 - More is not necessarily better
- There's a push to make submissions electronic
 - Binders are bulky and difficult to carry around
 - Flash-drives are much easier to transport
 - Maryrose Eannace has offered to support with electronic submissions (for example, scanning materials)
- Peer-evaluation process
 - AMVA is changing their process
 - We're close to the top in terms of our process, when compared to other community colleges
 - Portfolios are viewed as the best way, and this is not changing

- Associate Deans Investigating Changes
 - Each AD was given a “project”
 - Lisa Cooley & Joe Woodrow are investigating changes to the promotion process, but neither are senators, and neither have spoken with the Senate about what they’re looking to change. Any requests for change should come to Senate.
 - Both faculty and ADs should be at Summer Institute session so all requirements are consistent

OPEN FORUM

- Class Schedules
 - Concern about how schedules are put together
 - Length of day should be considered
 - There are contract guidelines
 - What people take on as overload is their responsibility
 - How tightly packed a schedule is should be considered
 - Every faculty member has different preferences regarding schedule
 - Challenges in “rolling over” last year’s schedule due to the new post-Labor Day start
 - Concern about new times and conflicts regarding overloads
 - If our enrollment is down 15%, why is there still a room crunch?
- Bathroom Issue
 - Mentioned in Student Congress minutes
 - T. Squires is investigating solutions to vandalism
- Guided Pathways
 - Concern that responsibility is being taken away from students if they’re handed a schedule
 - There used to be block schedules at MVCC, and students were given a pre-made schedule
 - The first semester will be pre-made. After that, the guided pathways are like the current lists of courses per semester
 - is this too much hand-holding?
 - Students complete a survey before meeting with an advisor. This enables the advisor to give a schedule and discuss concerns with students
 - First semester will be mostly general education requirements. In the second semester, students will determine a “meta major” to narrow their field a little. In the second year, students determine their specific major.
 - If paying out of pocket, students have the freedom to explore different options. But if on financial aid, guidance can be helpful so students don’t run out of aid.
- Adjunct Concerns
 - What role do faculty have in working with adjuncts?
 - Depending on department/discipline, faculty may or may not have any input on who is hired
 - Concern about some adjuncts not maintaining the same level of rigor
 - Academic Freedom
 - Some possible solutions include providing guidelines for grades and pairing adjuncts with somebody who taught or is teaching the same course

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Caucus adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Chair election following the May 15th Senate Meeting. Fall 2017 Schedule and Venue TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski