

FACULTY CAUCUS MINUTES
Tuesday, November 15, 2016
2:15PM PH 300

Present: J. Baumann, E. Bush, S. Crocker, S. Dar, A. Doughtie, A. Haines, D. Kelly, S. McCall, C. Miller, R. Mink, A. Radlowski, B. Scantlebury

Guests: K. Barefoot, A. Kalashnik, D. Kulev, M. Pede, C. Pulquerio, T. Thomas

CALL TO ORDER

The Caucus was called to order at 2:18 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from Tuesday, October 18th meeting were approved.

CHAIR REMARKS

C. Miller updated the Caucus on the following items:

- *Photocopiers*
Those with a Mac are unable to print to the new copiers, and those with a PC are unable to release a document to either copier in AB, so faculty are unable to print to the copiers. However, the printers that had been in AB have been removed, and the question has been raised whether a printer might be placed in the Faculty Lounge. C. Miller has emailed T. Squires and will engage in further discussion with him about this issue.
- *Starfish*
C. Miller met with J. Lynch and M. Eannace to discuss concerns regarding workload and redundancy of work. As part of implementing Starfish, the intention is to reduce the repetition of entering information (attendance, office hours, etc.) and, potentially, to replace some current systems. C. Miller expressed a concern to J. Lynch and M. Eannace that faculty should be involved in the discussion about whether or not to adopt Starfish full-scale. She then asked the Caucus whether J. Lynch should be invited to attend a meeting in the spring to further address Starfish and our concerns. The Caucus agreed that would be a good idea.
- *Caucus Guest Speaker Form*
C. Miller also met with N. Chrisman and C. Ho to discuss the form S. Dar made. It is ready to be put on the website, although there is still an issue regarding modifying dates.

MICRO-CREDENTIAL TEAM PRESENTATION

K. Barefoot, A. Kalashnik, D. Kulev, M. Pede, C. Pulquerio, A. Radlowski, T. Thomas

The Micro-credential team presented on their recommendations regarding how micro-credentials might look at MVCC (see attached PowerPoint). A Q&A followed, with some of the highlights including:

- Q:** Will microcredentials receive financial aid in the future?

A: *It is unknown. Right now, the best option to receive aid is the “embedded” microcredential. If this changes in the future, we will have to advise students differently.*

Q: “Embedded” or “Stackable” microcredentials?

A: *Try to have them overlap in as many degrees as possible, and would work best in degrees that have many restricted electives. They could be seen as a stepping stone to a certificate or degree.*

Q: Who do you see teaching the capstone course? What might the course look like?

A: *It might be as an independent study with a faculty mentor or as a 0-credit course. We could have area business leaders come to campus to speak to form a strong connection between the business and the course. There would be a capstone project and an internship.*

Q: If students transfer, will it appear on their transcript?

A: *Yes. The capstone course would appear on the official transcript. The microcredential could appear on the unofficial transcript.*

Q: Could experiential learning be used?

A: *Sure – it would be similar to how experiential learning is used with regards to class credit now.*

Q: What would be the process for creating a microcredential?

A: *The process could be something like: [1] write the microcredential; [2] vet it through each department it involves (have a co-sponsor); [3] send to CWCC.*

Comment: The “add on” microcredentials may result in credit creep.

Comment: APSC and CWCC will be big players. APSC would be the place to set the universal standards for microcredentials, while CWCC will be the place to determine individual microcredentials.

As for the next steps, it was suggested that we are close to a proposal for the process, which could be part of the Senate report in February.

FACULTY LOUNGE RENOVATIONS

C. Miller offered to be on the committee to help renovate the Faculty Lounge. Currently there is a copier and some desks and bookshelves. It was suggested to take down some walls, keep the copier and printer in the lounge, but in a separate room with classroom supplies (D. Kelly volunteers to keep the supplies well-stocked). The door should lock with a classroom key. Other suggestions for the space include a water cooler, coffee pot, lounge furniture (similar to the center of the Learning Commons), as well as furniture to work at.

OPEN FORUM

Recently attendance at Caucus has been dwindling, which has resulted in concerns about forming a quorum. Leadership Academy occurs at the same time, which has caused some faculty representatives to be unable to attend Caucus. Some suggestions to increase involvement are to mention the concern at Senate, as well as to put the meeting into Outlook Calendar for the full semester at the start of each semester. Faculty senators who are unable to attend Caucus should find an alternate to take their place.

ADJOURNMENT

The Faculty Caucus adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Senate Faculty Caucus will be Tuesday, January 17th at **2:15 p.m. in PH 300.**

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Radlowski