

Faculty Caucus Minutes

Tuesday September 21, 2001

230pm

Zoom

Present: E. Bush, R. Cavic , S. Crocker, S. Dar, C. Ehrlich, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, J. Ireland, M. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, S. McCall, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, R. Santos, L. Williams, L. Williams, and R. Wittenberg

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 2:31pm.

Approval of minutes: G. Melendez 1st, S. Crocker 2nd

The minutes from the May 11th meeting were approved.

16 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Conversation about diversity:

Faculty story telling began with the following question: How have you adapted part of your course material, in terms of teaching, curriculum, policies, or activities that make a more inclusive and equitable environment?

A faculty member shared the idea on increasing student success by re-opening all assignments at midterm providing students a 24-hr opportunity to submit or re-submit assignments. It was pointed out that some students take longer to apply knowledge and this opportunity allowed students to apply the knowledge later in the course during the second attempt. This same 24- hr opportunity is provided at the end of the semester for course work from midterm to final. This story telling was followed by a short Q & A session.

Chair Report:

1. In October, President Van Wagoner and VP Kahler will be coming to Faculty Caucus. Any questions or concerns should be emailed to E. Bush beforehand.
2. Drop notifications for faculty: faculty is notified if a student drops their class only if the electronic form is used. If paper forms are used faculty do not receive notification. Please encourage student to use the electronic drop form by using the college search box or <https://www2.mvcc.edu/secure/bbindexdrop.cfm>
3. Concerns about in-person-teaching:
 - a. If a student is asked to leave due to mask non-compliance, their name and M number must be reported.
 - b. T. Squires will make sure department offices, security, and student activities have masks available for student use.
 - c. Non-vaccinated students may visit open labs, tutoring sessions, and the library since these meetings/areas are not considered a regular course.
 - d. If a student tests positive the Dean and Tim Thomas will notify the instructor. Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) will investigate the circumstances. The student and instructor will then be given specific guidance on the next steps.
 - e. It was mentioned that unvaccinated employees can be tested weekly.

- f. Some faculty has begun to use seating charts to keep track of contacts if there is a positive test.
- g. Students are encouraged but not required to have a MVCC student ID. This is why some students do not have a photo in Starfish

Old Business:

J. Ireland will be the new Guided Pathways representative.

New Business:

1. SUNY Gen Ed. Framework. Feedback for the implementation guideline is sought. The possibility of substituting a social science for a natural science was discussed. SUNY will not review Gen Ed courses in the future; it will be up to individual campuses to take the lead on new course review and implementation. There is a meeting on October 7th. VP Kahler has asked that all feedback be sent to the Deans. A. Miller has also requested to be cc'd with the feedback.
2. Class caps. Online classes are capped at 25 (no changes from before) if the online course was created as an online course. In person classes that abruptly transitioned to online were reduced from the usual 40 seat cap to a 30 seat online cap.
3. There are no changes to late registration
 - a. Week 1 students can register on their own
 - b. Week 2 students need instructor permission
 - c. Week 3 students need permission from the instructor and dean.
 - d. Exceptions should be rare and discussed with the dean and faculty member.
4. For now, in person classes are being scheduled for a majority of the Spring semester.
5. Grading systems. The benefits/drawbacks of changing to a +/- grading system were discussed. Despite several discussions throughout MVCC's history there has always been a hesitancy to change. Faculty Caucus appears to be in favor of re-opening discussions. Perhaps inviting R. Spetka and J. Lynch to address caucus will give a non-faculty perspective to the discussion.

Open Forum:

A requested was made to see if future caucus meetings could be conducted via Teams.

Adjournment:

S. Crocker moved. G. Melendez second. Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm.

Next Meeting

2:30pm on Tuesday October 19, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Roman Santos