

## **Faculty Caucus Minutes**

**Tuesday October 18, 2021**

**2:30pm**

**Zoom**

**Present:** E. Brindisi, E. Bush, S. Crocker, S. Dar, A. Devine, A. Doughtie, C. Ehrlich, D. Elseth, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, M. Kelly, M. Kuczynski, M. LaPaglia, G. Melendez, A. Miller, C. Miller, S. McCall, S. McManus, D. Nackley, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, G. Searles, D. Stevens, L. Wadsworth, R. Wittenberg,

**Call to order: 2:32pm**

**Approval of Minutes:** A. Haines 1<sup>st</sup>. G. Melendez 2<sup>nd</sup>

19 Approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstain

**Guests:** President R. VanWagoner, VP L. Kahler, J. Mihevc, MJ. Parry

President VanWagoner gave a detailed background as to the current vaccine mandate from SUNY. He explained MVCC's actions and the reason why those actions were taken. Without clear directions, MVCC took actions that would provide the most benefit to students (specifically our lower income populations that would be the most affected).

MVCC allowed students until October 18 to provide proof of vaccination. Students had to be vaccinated before November 4 in order to register for Spring semester.

SUNY then decided that MVCC was "willfully out of compliance" with the SUNY mandate and was ordered to get into compliance.

VP Kahler spoke about the actions that faculty, administration, and staff took to quickly rectify the situation. Most students either provided proof of vaccination; those who did not were moved into online sections. Only 17 students were deregistered.

Conversation then shifted to SUNY's printing mandate. M. Parry shared the mandate and explained the reasoning for SUNY's actions. M. Parry mentioned that much of the printing mandate is primarily aimed at 4-year institutions. M. Parry reiterated that personal printers would not be allowed in offices.

J. Mihevc then spoke about the need for a revised MVCC student class survey. Faculty input is vital if the survey is to be a tool for teaching feedback. He stressed that it would not be used as a tool for faculty evaluation. J. Mihevc asked that faculty caucus take the lead in building consensus as to what needs to go into a new student class survey.

J Mihevc stated that ideally, the survey would be ready to launch for Spring 2023.

Discussion followed on the best way to engage faculty to be certain everyone has a voice in the revision of the surveys (maybe January institute and/or subcommittee of faculty).

### **Diversity Conversation:**

A faculty member shared two classroom practices that have allowed for a more inclusive classroom environment. The first classroom practice involves a due date range for class assignments. A student who cannot meet the first due date for an assignment can submitted the assignment by the next assignment due date. This way if something comes up or if a student is taking longer to complete the

assignment, they do not feel any undue stress. The second classroom practice involves making “Bite-sized” videos (5-10 minutes) of the day’s lessons. This allows students who may need to miss class to obtain the information presented in class that day. In addition, it allows the students who were present to go over information a second time to improve their understanding. Q & A followed.

#### **Chair Report:**

R. Spetka and J. Lynch will be present at November’s meeting to answer questions and provide perspective as to the proposed revision of MVCC’s grading system

Emails were exchanged between Faculty Caucus chair and Chair of APSC, who had a question concerning the grading system discussion that was occurring.

#### **Old Business:**

A. Fried presented a draft of MVCC Grade System Policy Change Recommendation. The draft proposes adding a C+ and B+ grade to the current grading system. The scale would be changed to 70-74%=C, 75-79%=C+. 80-84%=B, 85-89%=B+. All other grades and percentages would remain as they are now. A. Fried came up with this system after looking at other community colleges in New York State and at some of the SUNY four-year schools. Jefferson CC, Suffolk CC, Nassau CC, and Westchester CC, currently use the grade system he is recommending in the policy change.

It was mentioned that R. Spetka and J. Lynch will be attending the November Faculty Caucus meeting so that more discussion could occur around the MVCC Grade System Policy Change Recommendation draft.

It was also brought forth that student input should be gathered concerning the MVCC Grade System Policy Change Recommendation draft.

Faculty agreed that further conversation in November would be beneficial followed by a vote during the December caucus meeting.

#### **New Business:**

A. Miller shared resolutions discussed at the latest FCCC meeting.

-FCCC is asking for phased timeline for Gen Ed revisions. Fall 2023 for Transfer degrees and Fall 2024 for applied degrees versus the current proposal of Fall 2023.

-FCCC is discussing a universal preferred names policy.

-FCCC also wants to see transparent open searches for SUNY leadership positions.

#### **Open Forum:**

Concerns were raised about the zoom license expiring in March of 2021 and what the plan was moving forward.

**Adjournment:**

G. Searles 1<sup>st</sup>. G. Melendez 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm

**Next meeting will be on Tuesday November 23 at 2:30pm via Zoom**

Respectfully submitted,

Roman Santos