

Faculty caucus notes**May 10, 2022****230pm****Zoom**

Present: M. Barlett, E. Bush, L. Charbonneau, S. Crocker, S. Dar, A. Devine, M. Faitell, A. Fried, A. Haines, A. Hazen, R. Huyck, M. Kelly, J. Kinney, M. Kuczynski, S. McCall, G. Melendez, C. Miller, A. Radlowski, R. Santos, B. Shaw, L. Williams, R. Wittenberg

Call to Order: 2:31pm

Approval of Minutes:

R. Wittenberg 1st, G. Melendez 2nd

17 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain

Guests: J. Suriano, VP T. Squires

Diversity Conversation: For this month, one student came and shared his experiences regarding diversity and inclusion at MVCC. The student said his entire experience at MVCC was a positive one from all the services, clubs, faculty, and staff. He enjoyed his experience at MVCC immensely. The student did share a negative experience he encountered when attempting to have his mother present during an advising session. The only recommendation the student shared is to have faculty and staff reach out to students more, especially to those who are hesitant to use the various services offered by the college.

A brief question and answer session followed.

Guest Presentation: J. Suriano and T. Squires spoke about a new service from Barnes and Noble called First Day Complete. Students would pay a \$25 (estimate) per credit hour fee (a 3 credit class would cost \$75) regardless of the number of textbooks required for any particular class. This service would allow students to have all their textbooks ready on the first day of classes with an overall savings to students. Students can choose physical texts or digital but physical texts would need to be returned at the end of the semester. If a student desired, they could purchase their copy outright at the end of the semester. In addition, if a course requires a course kit (i.e. art or science classes that need special tools) those could be created (within limits) and included as part of the first day package. If a student did not wish to participate in the program, they would need to opt out and would be responsible for obtaining their own textbooks.

J. Suriano and T. Squires outlined the possible savings to students (35%-50% overall). They also shared information from Onondaga Community College, which has been using the service for about 5 years. Their students have seen an overall financial savings and additionally, a 14% increase in student retention. A small number of courses have been used as a trial here at MVCC and it is hoped the service will be fully implemented for Fall 2023.

A question and answer session followed. Many concerns were raised, specifically the financial burden this could add to students. Others expressed unease with what appeared to be courses with no textbooks/inexpensive textbooks would be subsidizing courses that required expensive textbooks. Also the fact that students would be charged unless they opted out.

Chair Report: Regarding testing accommodation issues; students needed to schedule an exam 3 business days in advance. Sometimes students forget this and either schedule their exams too close to the date or try scheduling on weekends, which do not count as business days.

In regards to the online grade change forms; if all fields have been filled in correctly, faculty should see a new page that says "Successfully completed". From there the form is put into a queue until the appropriate Dean reviews it.

The Chair thanked caucus members for their support over the last two years. R. Santos was thanked for his work and efforts as secretary. Members of the Faculty Caucus Advisory Council and Faculty Caucus Diversity Council were also thanked for the guidance they have provided over the last two years.

Old Business: College Senate endorsed the Faculty Caucus recommendations on course modality at the May Senate meeting.

New Business: Three FCCC resolutions were shared with Caucus following their vote in Senate.

S. Dar will serve as the new Chair of Faculty Caucus starting Fall 2022. No secretary has been chosen.

VP L. Kahler would like feedback and recommendations for the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). Plans are to work on the CTE over the Summer so it can be ready for use in the Fall.

Open Forum: A. Fried wishes to continue the faculty book club for fall. The book to be read is *Make it Stick: Science of Successful Learning*. He would like to see a change, instead of just discussions perhaps having 2 sessions per month for 3 months where active demonstrations would be presented. Perhaps a 10 minute micro teach and then a chat on how to adapt to individual courses.

Motion to Adjourn: S. Crocker 1st, M. Kelly 2nd

Caucus adjourned at 412pm.

Roman Santos