

CFS Committee Member Observation (Discussion)

Date: 2/14/2024

Attendees: Quinn Briggs / David Miller, Department Chair of Computer Science and Engineering

Minutes:

David Miller invited me to a discussion about important classroom management principles and covered the following topics with me.

1. Building community of learning in a classroom is very important
 - a. Create a culture of learning and inclusiveness in the classroom so students can learn from each other and form meaningful connections that will serve them well later.
 - b. Establish a weekly pattern for the class that reduces the cognitive load on the students and helps them know what to expect each week.
 - c. Set clear expectations and have accountability enforcement mechanisms to help teach the students how to do what is expected of them. This helps them in their professional career later.
 - d. Encourage students to exchange contact information early so they can easily reach out to each other for help.
 - e. Use technology like Microsoft Teams to facilitate communication in class. Be accessible via technology to make it easy for students to get help from you.
2. Help struggling students in meaningful and effective ways
 - a. Many low performers are struggling with personal problems such as mental health challenges, and their academic performance reflects this. Be sensitive to these situations.
 - b. Use the teaching assistants in class as an extension of you, and empower them to respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost to reach out to individuals who need extra support.
 - c. Get to know student names and show an interest in their life. Ask questions like "How are you today?" or "What is going on in your life?"
3. Be an effective mentor
 - a. Leave your door open as much as possible. Don't retreat into your space so students don't feel you are too busy for them
 - b. Be approachable. Even the most affable of people are sometimes intimidating to students, so try hard to break the ice with each of them.
 - c. "Make mankind your business" – the business of education is very much about helping others succeed. Don't lose sight of that.
 - d. Be careful not to spoon feed answers to students, even if that's the easy road. Guide them towards the answers themselves so that you aren't their academic crutch.