Diversity Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Faribault: B109, North Mankato: PCR3

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tracy Stokes-Hernandez, Teresa Neubert, Heidi Wyn, Dr. Anade Long, Deborah Selbach, Al Kluever, Kathy Rusch, Xavion Turey, Sandra Woods

Welcome: Tracy

Approval of Agenda: Kathy Rusch asked to include information on David Shipler and Tracy indicated that would come under upcoming events. Xavion moved to approve the agenda, carried by all.

Approval of Minutes: Deb Selbach moved to approve, carried by all

Discussion Items

Mini Training/Diversity Quiz (Kathy Rusch):

Kathy led a quiz with the group on diversity concerns in Minnesota which was provided her at the Greater Mankato Diversity Banquet.

Governor Dayton Executive Order to Establish Inclusion and Diversity Council (Tracy):

Tracy addressed the executive order by the governor that had been sent out by her earlier this day. Deb Selbach read aloud the contents of the press release relating to this to the group.

Event Evaluations (Tracy):

Tracy explained that the new evaluation tool was first used for Teresa’s presentation at the Synapse event earlier this month. Tracy indicated that the new evaluation tool seemed to work well and she would be turning the evals from this event to our Research and Planning Office for compilation of the results.

Everyone commented that they were proud of Teresa for her presentation on Transgender issues and thanked her for stepping forward on this.

The evals were also used on the Reggie Edwards presentation on February 10 and 11, on Black History from a Generation X Perspective. Kathy Rusch commented that she thought his presentation went well and there were about 15 people in attendance at the North Mankato event.

Upcoming Events (Tracy/Kathy):

The group talked briefly about the next event, Safe Zone LGBT Ally Training on March 5. It was noted that since this event will be ITV to the Faribault Campus, it should be recorded as well. Xavion talked
about the possibility of creating an repository of training and presentations that could be accessed from the Diversity web page. Tracy will look into this with Steve Pottenger.

Kathy Rusch then spoke about the upcoming event in connection with the Common Read. David Shipler, author of the book The Working Poor: Invisible in America, will be at SCC on April 14 and 15. At this point it looks like Xavion will go to the airport on the 14 to pick up Mr. Shipler. Then that evening we will host an event featuring David at the Faribault Campus inclusive of a light supper. On the 15th Mr. Shipler will be at the North Mankato Campus to speak with faculty and students from 9-11am. He will then be part of a luncheon on the North Mankato campus for all. Kathy will return Mr. Shipler to the airport later that afternoon unless someone else would be interested in doing so. Xavion also indicated that if anyone is interested in previewing Mr. Shipler, there is a U- Tube video from Dartmouth College featuring Mr. Shipler speaking that is available for viewing on U-Tube.

Request for Support of Somalian Night (Heidi Wyn):

Heidi Wyn mentioned that Somali students are trying to organize a “Somali Night,” with Somali dancing and food. A group of females wants to use the fitness center to practice their dancing. The idea hasn’t gone anywhere so far. Planning an event for fall 2015 seems more reasonable than trying to do it now; however, Dr. Long mentioned that we should help them do something this semester, starting small, and letting them build upon that. Dr. Long has interns who would be willing to help. Heidi mentioned they would like to stage this event on a Friday or Saturday night, and we would need volunteers from the Diversity Committee to attend, as well. The next step is for Heidi to get these students together for a chat.

Sports Fashion Show (Heidi Wyn):

On Wednesday, February 18, students will be staging a fashion show of sports clothes in Heritage Hall. Free smoothies will also be served. Clothes from local sporting stores will be displayed.

Diversity Plan Progress (Tracy):

We are waiting on statements from the President’s Office and from the HR Office in order to add the Diversity Philosophy statements to the Diversity Plan.

Cinco de Mayo:

We had some talk about having a special meal on that day.

Meeting adjourned. The next Diversity Committee meeting is Tuesday, March 10th, at 1 p.m.

Minutes by Al Kluever, Secretary, Diversity Committee