



Diversity Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Faribault: B109, North Mankato: PCR3

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Tracy Stokes-Hernandez, Ricki Walters, Dr. Brian Fors, Teresa Neubert, Heidi Wyn, Wes Taylor, Dr. Kimberly Roan, Dr. Anade Long, Deborah Selbach, Iman, Hussein, Guest Beth Danberry

A big welcome to new student member of our committee, Iman.

Welcome: Tracy

Approval of Agenda: Ricki moved to approve, Teresa 2nd, carried

Approval of Minutes: Deborah moved to approve, Ricki 2nd, carried

No new announcements

Discussion Items

Retention Event: Dr. Fors has planned a retention breakfast, tentative dates December 2nd, from 8 to 10 a.m., on the N. Mankato campus, and December 3rd, from 8 to 10 a.m., on the Faribault campus. Faculty and staff will also take part. The point of the breakfast is to foster relationships between faculty, staff, and students. Research shows that if students feel connected to faculty and staff members at an institution, those students will return to complete their goals. The focus will be on financial aid, scholarship applications, and work study. A community service person might be there to talk about other services within the community. The breakfast will be informal, casual, and comfortable, and will be treated as a pilot. We have 1700 eligible students for this event, but will go through FYE and College Readiness instructors for lists of students who will attend. These December dates are not yet confirmed. The proposal has been made to the Cabinet, and the Cabinet will decide whether or not we can move forward with this. Dr. Roan will talk with Student Affairs about this event. She also wants Student Affairs to know the names of the students who will be invited. Dr. Fors hasn't asked faculty for names yet because he is waiting for the "green light." The ultimate goal is to stage this event annually. Beth asked if we will be tracking these students to see if they remain students at our college, or not.

Diversity Plan: Dr. Roan mentioned a number of changes she wants made with the document. She questioned whether or not the Diversity Committee is responsible for recruiting minority students. She felt the duty belongs to Student Affairs. Teresa stated the entire college "owns" the Diversity Plan. Dr. Long said the Plan is for the entire college and will "feed" into other committees. It will be adopted across both campuses, as well. The entire college should be working this Plan. Perhaps specific groups should own the action steps, though. This Plan should be flexible and adaptable. Dr. Long stated we can

amend the document, if need be. Dr. Roan asked for a list of committees and subcommittees. This list is currently being updated by Carol Freed.

Event Evaluation: The committee decided to delete question number 7 and to amend question number 6. The committee also decided to do a computerized evaluation form.

Diversity Training Event: The October 29th training event featuring Dr. Utt was not well attended. Staff/faculty workshop day was mentioned as an appropriate day to schedule such an event.

David Shipler will be coming to campus in April, and his contract is still being configured.

Mixed Blood Theatre wants to come to our college in April for some diversity training events. Continued Education Credits will be available to faculty and staff who attend the trainings. They also will be here to give a theatre performance.

Minnesota OUT LGBT Conference: Tracy took four students to the Cities for the conference. Those students might appear at our next committee meeting to tell us what they learned.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next Diversity Committee meeting is Tuesday, December 9th, at 1 p.m.

Minutes by Deborah Selbach, Committee Member