

President's Commission on Diversity
Minutes ~ October 13, 2008
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Refugee Transition Center in Kent

Members Present: Diana Holz, Deb Casey, Susan Davis, Fia Eliasson-Creek, Kim Nakano, Laura Griep, Raymond Lader, Jhon Valencia, Bryce Hughes, Rich Rutkowski, Kelly Blackwood, Marycarmen Becerra-Nunez, Livia Muller, Cyndi Rapier, Joe Huang, Sylvester Neal, Lesley Hogan, Paula Burns, Duanna Richards, Loretta Ferguson, Jennifer Cooke, April Jensen, Shirley Quenga

Members Absent: Jean Carmack, Krista Fox, Josh Gerstman, Marco Becerra Nunez, Vivian Tina Christian, Patrick Reeves, Brad Johnson, Amanda Schaefer, Danielle Newton, Fred Mendoza

Presentation by Refugee Transition Center

Clair Chen, Coordinator for the Refugee Transition Center in Kent gave an overview of the Center and its functions. The Center serves as the primary intake facility for new refugee families arriving to the Kent school district to learn about the education system.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Deb and Diana welcomed new and returning members and thanked Laura for coordinating the Commission's first meeting for the academic year (2008-2009) at the Refugee Transition Center. Everyone shared who they are, the role they served at GRCC or within the local community, and the reason they want to become involved with the President's Commission on Diversity.

The Commission will be setting up a few of their meetings at various off-campus organizations to connect more and build stronger relationships with our community.

Information Updates

Review Diversity Framework - Deb & Diana reviewed the diversity framework and the strategic recommendations that were finalized spring of 2008. The strategic recommendations for 2008-2009 of actions/indicator outcomes will be the structure for the Commission's work as we move forward.

Board of Trustees Monitoring Report Presentation – Deb, Diana, & Fia gave an overview of the Monitoring Report on under-represented students that they will presenting to the Board of Trustees on Thursday, Oct. 16 and asked Commission members for their input. Marycarmen & Jhon will be presenting with them as well.

The goal is to provide under-represented students services that will support their learning and promote student success. This is a college-wide effort that includes Student Services, curriculum and instructional initiatives. There are two significant frameworks tied to under-represented students which are the diversity framework and the student achievement initiative.

It was recommended to add I-Best (Integrated Basic Education Skills and Training) to PowerPoint slide on page 5, top slide. This program is designed to get students to transition more quickly into professional and technical programs.

BREAK

Celebration and Recognition of a Student, Staff or Faculty Diversity Experience

- Safe-Zone Orientation, Sept 17th was successful; Second Safe Zone Orientation is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2008, 1-4pm
- Disability Awareness “Not Just Ramps” – Oct. 22, 2-4pm, Glacier Room
- Congrats to Sylvester Neal, Vice-President for the Kiwanis International Board for 2008-2009
- In addition to the Child Development Associate (CDA), Green River’s first IBEST program, four other IBEST programs has been launched including: Early Childhood Education, Fundamentals of Care giving, Community Forestry and General Office Assistant. Beginning winter quarter, Green River will offer three additional IBEST programs: Welding, Aviation, and Auto Body.

Review of Recommendations from Summer Small Group Meeting

Deb reviewed the recommendations from summer small group meeting and divided everyone in groups focusing on each of the nine strategic recommendations for 2008-2009. How do we want this to look as a team; when and how often do we meet; what steps do we take to meet our indicator outcomes.

Recommendation Action-Teams

Action 1 – Provide Sessions for Student and Parents on Financial Aid (team to TBD)

Action 2 – Offer Course Content Concurrently with ABE/ESOL/BEST Students (Diana)

Action 3 – Remove Institutional Barriers

Team: Joe (lead)
Sylvester
Fia
Jennifer

Action 4 – Limit Number of Minimum Qualifications for Positions at GRCC

Team: Ray (lead)
Kim
Lesley
Shirley

Action 5 – Provide Professional Opportunities and Incentives for Faculty and Staff to Focus on Diversity

Team: Susan
April

Action 6 – Create and Implement Critical Incidents Team (in process)

Action 7 – Provide Opportunities for Courageous Conversations

Team: Loretta (lead)

Livia

Marycarmen

Jhon

Paula

Action 8 – Create Welcoming Environments in Honor of Ethnic and Culture Diversity

Team: Kelly (lead)

Cyndi

Bryce

Rich

Action 9 – Review and Implement Dream Project Concepts

Team: April (lead)

Laura

Amanda

Susan

Marco

Next Steps

Work teams will schedule a time to meet regularly on each of their action item that was listed in the Monitoring Report and strategic recommendations for 2008-2009.

Next Meeting: Scheduled November 10th from 3-5 p.m. (time change to serve committee members)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.