

President's Commission on Diversity
January 12, 2009 Minutes
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Deb Casey, Kelly Blackwood, Diana Holz, Kim Nakano, Bryce Hughes, Jhon Valencia, Ray Lader, April Jensen, Amanda Schafer, Krista Fox, Patrick Reeves, Livia Muller, Laura Griep, Brad Johnson, Paula Burns, Phil Jack, Tina Christian, Phil Smith, Alexandra Davis, Fred Mendoza, Loretta Ferguson, Cyndi Rapier & Shirley Quenga

Members Absent: Rich Rutkowski, Sylvester Neal, Susan Davis, Lesley Hogan, Fia Eliasson-Creek, Marco Becerra-Nunez, Marycarmen Becerra-Nunez, Josh Gerstman, Jean Carmack

Guests: Lloyd Jansen & Phil Jack.

Presentation on Confronting Racial Insensitivity on Campus

Lloyd Jansen & Phil Jack (Carsh Wilturner unable to attend)

The Multicultural and Equity Council presented a brown bag dialogue on “Confronting Racial Insensitivity on Campus” facilitated by Lloyd Jansen, Phil Jack & Carsh Wilturner on November 18, 2008.

The MEC Council asked Phil, Lloyd and Carsh to facilitate a dialogue in regards to a racist poster that appeared on campus, written on it were racial slurs, quite disturbing. How do we want to address this with our students and bring ideas out in the open? Why is it being said and how do we respond to it?

Phil said it was an excellent presentation, did not expect the number of people, standing room only. This was the opportunity to talk about what is said, why is it offensive, took it on as an opportunity for teaching and that we can't have an open discussion in fear.

Lloyd had mentioned that Carsh is the master, guest, and host at the same time. From the political science perspective, the good news is that it's getting better after 100 years of racism. The bad news is that racism still exists. We can only educate, time is our ally, for a positive change.

Tina mentioned they had excellent attendance, opened the dialogue. MEC will be having more of these brown bag dialogues. They want to create an open dialogue around race on campus and not have fears. We all learn from it, it was successful and good.

Brad mentioned that the IDC Committee is looking to offer more courses to create that look of diversity and offer a diversity certificate. The dialogues are much more elevated; hope to get more of the faculty to vote into this. It's appealing to division representatives, asking instructors, and submitting a diversity course requirement proposal this quarter. Have a definition of diversity to diffuse the misunderstandings and two forums with faculty this quarter and possibly vote in the spring. Diana will let the divisions know, matter of getting out the information and responding to it. Addressing diversity, make it more visible in the degree. April stated that it is remarkably wonderful that this is coming from the faculty making it a diversity course requirement.

It was also mentioned that Carsh did a profound thing, things he said, and to just calm yourself before speaking. There were some courageous conversations, open dialogue within the commission, quite moving. Deb thanked Phil and Lloyd for initiating the courageous conversations dialogue.

Diana talked about ethno biography sharing for future meetings.

BREAK

Inauguration Ceremony (Deb, Jhon, Diana, Mary Carmen)

The Presidential Inauguration is Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Per Jhon, it was a group effort. He took the leadership in creating the flyer, a historical moment, a celebration, and would like to institutionalize this. The Inauguration Day Breakfast is \$3 with a free pin; otherwise the pin can be purchased for 20 cents. Auburn's Mayor, Pete Lewis will be our guest speaker at 8:30-8:45 a.m. Televised Presidential Inauguration begins at 9 a.m.; Entertainment from 10-10:30 a.m. The Presidential Inauguration will also be videotaped and shown in the Glacier Room at 11 a.m.

Kelly Eisenhour, our music director, will be writing a piece of music and the Rendezvous Jazz Choir will be singing at 8:15 a.m. RSVP seating will be up front for President's Commission. Deb encourages the President's Commission to support Jhon during the inauguration celebration as well as the Martin Luther King Week.

Obama books will also be available for purchase at the bookstore.

Martin Luther King Week (Jhon and Marycarmen)

Wednesday, January 21

12-1pm SC-101

Video – A day to remember August 28, 1963

Facilitator: Michael Wood

Thursday, January 22

12-2pm St. Helens Room

Lecture on Civil Rights Movement

Facilitator: David Norberg

Friday, January 23

12-2pm Baker Room

Civil Liberties Discussion

Facilitator: Ray Lader

Loretta – Martin Luther King debrief in February, make this a permanent part of campus. Jhon stated that Highline Community College's Martin Luther King celebration is very impressive.

Alexandra will be emailing the commission a series of workshops in celebration of Martin Luther King.

Jhon asked everyone to stop by the Library to see the wonderful job the Library has done in regards to Martin Luther King week.

Diana shared the Vision Diversity Conference brochure, a one day conference on February 28, 2009, 9:15-3:30 p.m. This is a self supported conference and the 18th one thus far. The cost is \$60 /\$25 GRCC. Keynote Presentation: The Growth and Prevention (GAP) Theatre is a nonprofit multicultural touring theatre ensemble based in Seattle, WA. Mission: GAP Theatre will cultivate the growth of empathy to prevent human suffering by inspiring dialog through theatrical performance.

Information updates

- Bush School Lecture Series (Ray)
Ray passed the Diversity Speaker Series 2008-2009 which is listed below:

Jawanza Kunjufu

The Education Gap: A Critical Response to Poverty in America

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 at 7pm

Location: Mount Zion Baptist Church

Jessica Pettitt
Social Justice Core Competencies
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009 at 7pm
Location: The Bush School Community Room

Hip Hop Summit 2009
Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009 at 7pm
Location: TBD

Winona Laduke
Women, Politics, and Environment Justice from a Native Perspective
Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 7pm
Location: The Bush School New Gym

Yong Zhao
Rethinking Education in the Age of Globalization
Monday, April 27, 2009 at 7pm
Location: The Bush School Community Room

Planning Team updates

Deb encourages everyone to continue meeting and have subcommittee updates by next meeting.

Group #7: (Tina, Loretta)

1. Wanting to do a courageous conversation timeline and start taking steps towards providing opportunities. Have a brown bag dialogue and partner with Safe Zones. At a reduced cost, it will cost each participant \$110. Thirty participants are ideal.
2. Would like to invite Tim Wise in April. The cost is \$5,000-\$6,000 and will work with GRCC. He's a nationally known speaker on White Privilege. He can go to various classrooms and talk, talk all day, design anything. They've talked about this in MEC and the Courageous Conversation Committee. Like Peggy McIntosh, he is equally good, available on specific dates. MEC has monies but not enough to afford him.

April thought Rich has not given his full approval to do this. Loretta and Tina would like to continue doing things that were internal and work towards that. MEC is willing to fund \$110 on their own, use whatever travel money they have left. They have no other monies to do a major speaker like Tim Wise. April said she is willing to fund \$500-\$800.

Deb asked the sub-committee to piece together what they would like, best alternative, something sustainable.

Next Meeting: February 9th from 2-4pm