

MINUTES – INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY TEAM

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The professional conference workshop conducted on January 3, 2018 was discussed. The event was successful and brought forth several topics of future discussion.

- Discuss rural America during orientation to assist our students making the transition from an urban area.
- Does exclusivity set groups apart? Where's the line between inclusivity and exclusivity.
- Can we add custom questions relating to diversity on our climate survey? Judy Jones will look into this.
- Can a representative from Human Resources be a member of our team? Response was they cannot spare an individual for full-time membership and participation in the committee but will be happy to answer any questions and provide resources if necessary.
- Can we recruit student representatives to be on this committee? Perhaps a diverse group of students. Suggestions include, international student, athlete and non-athlete, gay, straight, etc. All team members will explore the possibility of recruiting students.

Interactive bulletin board for Religious Freedom was informative and successful.

The Chinese New Year activity is being coordinated by Cheryl Brown. A Chinese performer will attend as well as members of the Chinese Association from Fort Hays. This will be February 23rd in the Union.

TOPICS/NOTES

Committee Chair Carol Murphy discussed the membership options (individual and institutional) to the National Association for Multicultural Education. **Members agreed unanimously we should request institutional membership.**

This committee will offer to work with other campus members to explore the possibility of making our website available in other languages and how to increase the Hispanic student population.

The forum for consultation is seriously discussed within the context of meeting the goals of this committee. Cheryl Brown states that she is the funnel for the collection and dissemination of information. Cheryl reminded the Team of the college's policies concerning discrimination and where reporting forms could be found.

The Team discussed ways of disseminating cultural competency information. Perhaps utilizing emails, a training session, etc. Also discussed the possibility of including a group of diverse community members to participate. Jaime Abel distributed an excellent handout on cultural competencies. An idea for consideration is an evening of cultural engagement / storytelling involving international students along with students from various locations in the United States.

Classroom activities on inclusion/diversity will be sent to faculty via email for use if desired. The Team felt emails would garner more attention and faculty would be more likely to use the activities than if they were in a T-drive folder or web page link.

The committee viewed a brief video featuring Samson McCormick. He is being considered as a guest speaker at Barton to address the topic of diversity and inclusion. Jaime Abel is going to investigate what it will take to make this happen. All of the members were asked to brainstorm ideas as to who else may make a good speaker. Judy Jacobs offered to check with a friend of hers who gives motivational talks to college students.

The next Conversation Café is February 27th at 7pm. This is Abby's project with assistance from volunteers. She is also soliciting treats and snacks that will be provided to café participants. Abby encouraged everyone to offer extra credit in order to facilitate attendance. There were 50 at last semester's café exercise and we hope to meet or exceed that number on the 27th.

ACTION ITEMS

Chairperson Murphy stated she was going to request Jo Harrington to speak to the committee on how to assess this groups goals and how that fits in with the overall mission of the organization.

Carol will check on the process for requesting membership to NAME.

Diane Engle will look into recruiting a student representative via emails to campus groups, etc.

Women's history month will be highlighted by a slide show.

April is Autism awareness month. The national autism awareness day is April 2nd. It is asked all persons wear the color blue to symbolize the event. On April 7th, there will be an autism awareness workshop hosted by an organization in Great Bend but held on the campus.

In May, we'll celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a special lunch on campus and transportation provided to the events sponsored by the city of Great Bend, Kansas.

Cinco de Mayo in the Square

Saturday, May 6

Begin with the parade at 11am and continue the fun at Jack Kilby Square for Queen crowning, food vendors, dancing, singing, raffle prizes, piñatas and so much more!

Next meeting in April. Topics include ideas to promote inclusiveness on campus and developing an assessment design for the Team's goals.

Meeting adjourned.