

Senate Diversity Committee – April Minutes

April 30, 2018

1 In Attendance

- Anuli Njoku (CHP, 3)
- David McCall (RSS, 3)
- Heather Symon-Bassett (L/C, 3)
- Anil Venkatesh – Chair (AL, 3)
- Eric Warner (CAS, 2)
- Felix Bollou (BUS, 3)

2 Minutes

1. Heather reported that the FLITE Project Identity is underway. Passersby can participate by creating a yarn web that links various aspects of their identity.
2. Anuli participated in the Accessible Course Design Workshop hosted by FCTL and the Staff Center. It was challenging but she learned a lot about making Blackboard content accessible.
3. Eric participated in Safe Zone Train-the-Trainer training. He would now like to train this committee next fall. The purpose is to create a friendlier atmosphere at Ferris. Longer term, he would like to see more LGBTQ+ participation in this type of training. Eric also reported that a multicultural poetry event was held and that this had the highest attendance of any poetry month event.
4. Anuli reported that she attended the International Festival at the UC, at which over 30 countries were represented. Plays, song, dance, and food were available. She has also been serving as a faculty mentor for the Promesa Scholars program. There was a student poster session at Wayne State on April 21.
5. Felix reported that the College of Business is interested in attracting more Native American applications from the Muskegon area. Anil suggested that he confer with Scott Herron about this.

6. Eric reiterated the importance of an academic component of units such as the Center for Latin@ Studies, such as developed courses and workshops at the center. The concern is that these centers may be subject to sudden budget cuts if faculty aren't involved and able to advocate for them.
7. Anuli reported on her workshop at Endless Opportunities, which took place on April 11. She gave an hour-long session on the public health research behind tobacco use in the United States. The audience consisted mainly of Endless Opportunities mentees from grades 6 through 12. The students were very engaged and asked many good questions. Endless Opportunities has invited Anuli to return sometime soon to give a follow-up workshop on public health and marijuana use.
8. Eric will take on the role of committee chair in September. He plans to hold an organizational meeting of the committee in that month and set forth the schedule of committee meetings in advance.