

Senate Diversity Committee – April Minutes

January 24, 2018

1 In Attendance [split meeting]

- Anuli Njoku (CHP, 3) [AM]
- Shelby Kelsh (PHR, 2) [PM]
- David McCall (RSS, 3) [PM]
- Mike Mendenhall (EHS, 1) [PM]
- Anil Venkatesh – Chair (AL, 3) [AM/PM]
- Heather Symon-Bassett (L/C, 3) [AM]

2 AM Meeting Minutes

1. Anuli reported on a December trip to Thailand to speak at the International Conference for Teaching, Education, and Learning. There was a focus on political science, public health, and other related disciplines.
2. Heather is working with a faculty member in Optometry to research enrollment barriers for minority students in the College of Optometry.
3. Anuli was asked to be a faculty mentor in a program for PROMESA students at Ferris who are interested in doing research. The students will present their abstracts at a conference in Detroit in April. (The PM meeting confirmed that the high school summer courses offered to PROMESA students are free of charge to the students).
4. Anuli asked who judges nominations for the Academic Awards Diversity Enhancement award. We don't know and the committee is not involved in this decision.
5. The committee brainstormed possible guests to visit our February meeting. More on this below.
6. Heather is interested to know the specifics of the Gen Ed Diversity Subcommittee ex officio position.

7. Anil delivered the following report submitted by Kristin.

“I have implemented a new mentor program for c4 students, a very diverse group of students. Currently there are 10 students (5 mentors/5 mentees). However, I am working on placing another student and I just heard back from the mentor today so there will be another mentor/ mentee group starting next week. The breakdown of the group dynamics would be 4 women and 8 men; of these twelve, 9 students are black and 3 are white. The program is two-fold. It will be a peer mentor program on one end because they are working with current students of mine. However, on the other end, I will be working/ mentoring the mentors; these are students whom I no longer have. If you would like to know more, just let me know.”

3 PM Meeting Minutes

1. Mike is coordinating with the police department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to send at least two officers to visit Ferris. They will speak on the importance of a diverse police workforce with a focus on recruitment and community relations.
2. Dave promoted the second annual Equity by Design workshop and keynote that is being hosted on February 28 and March 1 by FCTL. The workshop on February 28 requires an RSVP and takes place 4-6 PM, while the keynote on March 1 is at 11-11:50 AM and is open to the public.
3. Shelby is involved in clinic at the College of Pharmacy for patients of the Hope House, providing free medication to those individuals via a grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield. They are focusing on vaccines. The committee wanted to know how to inform students of medical coverage options, especially for mental health. Maybe the committee could figure out a plan for training faculty in this regard, so that we are better able to advise our students.
4. Anil reported that the Endless Opportunities mentoring program in GR is still interested in having Ferris faculty run enrichment workshops at their events, which take place 6-7 PM most Wednesdays. Several members of the committee expressed interest and Anil will follow up.
5. Mike is a co-organizer of the Ferris Conference on Human Trafficking which will be held April 10-11.
6. Dave is interested know the specifics of the Gen Ed Diversity Subcommittee ex officio position.

4 February Meeting Guest

The committee generated the following list of individuals who we would like to invite to visit one of our meetings.

1. Mike Wade of OMSS (how to continue momentum from an event like the MLK Day in-service?)
2. Kaylee Moreno of The Latin@ Center (how to improve training of faculty and staff on diffusing discriminatory situations?)
3. Director of new LGBTQ+ Center
4. Scott Garrison of FLITE (prayer/meditation/reflection room and new plans)
5. Curator of Jim Crow museum
6. Tracy Bush of MoSO
7. Birkam Health Center representative
8. Nursing faculty member whose child is transitioning.

The committee resolved to invite Kaylee Moreno to the February meeting. Dave has followed up with her to sort out scheduling.