

Student Affairs Diversity Committee

Meeting Minutes

11/3/2021

Present: Joy Pulsifer, Angela Palmer, Kaitlin Zies, Kylie Piette, Nick Campau, Sarah Meiser, Eric Haner, Stacey Sandy, Raven Hills, Ben Avery, Lindsay Barber, Sarah Doherty, Danyelle Gregory, Angela Roman, Mark Schuelke, and Angela Garrey

Guest: Julie Alexander

Able Eyes:

Julie Alexander joined the committee today to talk about an initiative that her office has been working on. They have worked with a company out of the Lansing Area, Able Eyes to create virtual tours of campus spaces with an emphasis on accessibility. They have started and created seven tours that are available on their website. Anyone can access the tours without using a mouse and can access with the keyboard. Julie said that she felt this was important because many of us feel a sense of anxiety when we go into a new space, and if you have any sort of disability, this can be amplified. There is benefit to see the space before you go to it or enter it. Julie demonstrated how to utilize the tour, moving through some of the areas (Birkam, FLITE. ROCK, SRC, TIMME, UC). For FLITE, the first floor is the only floor done but they hope to expand this tour in the future. In the future, utilizing another platform, they will be able to measure doorways, etc. Julie suggested that this may be helpful when discussing with a student where they can meet with you or describing a location, etc. While discussing with the student, you can pull this up on the computer and walk them through it. For the Rec Center, three levels are shown. Restroom locations are shown in the tours too. Julie said that they will keep working on these and continue to develop them. Lindsay asked the question of whether these tours could be included on the department's individual websites (i.e., if the Birkam tour could be added to the Birkam website), and Julie answered that there is capability to do so.

Work Plan Updates:

Student Employee and Student Leaders: Angela shared that on November 30th there will be a Conflict Resolution workshop held virtually: <https://ferris.presence.io/event/leadership-academy-group-development-conflict-resolution>. In the spring, there will be a 6-hour Leadership Panelists Training for two days, which will help students understand how to work together. The training will be held on January 19 and January 21 for three hours on each day and then on Saturday, February 12 for all 6 hours: <https://ferris.presence.io/event/leadershape-catalyst-certification>

Nick shared that there will be a Diversity and Inclusion Summit. His team has been working on and hope to have the Cultural Intelligence Center present and work with us to focus our efforts on what biased and unbiased can look like. The date for the summit has not been chosen yet, but we hope to have both virtual and in-person options. Nick is currently looking at four dates in March. The Central Intelligence Center has sent in their proposal and included many Michigan public schools that they have worked with in the past, which is promising. All in all, this summit is still in the exploring phase.

Student Membership: Because it is hard to get student membership to meetings that sometimes move around, Joy will commit to the dates in spring and if she gets over scheduled, she will tap one of us to lead the meetings. Please continue to work to find or suggest students to join our committee.

Webpage: Thank you Ben for your work on our Student Affairs Diversity webpage. Joy showed and reviewed the webpage with the committee. Most of the feedback that our committee shared is now reflected on most areas of the webpage. Ben continues to work on some of the other suggestions that were given to improve the webpage. For example, he will work on getting our work goals included in our webpage.

Diversity Awareness Calendar: We should now see all the dates of the Diversity & Awareness events on the campus calendar. Joy suggested that everyone add the university calendar to their Outlook to see all that is going on.

Restart of Lunch & Learn with Green Box:

We will begin/restart the Student Affairs Lunch & Learn Series, beginning next Thursday. These are from Noon -1:30 pm on the second Thursday of every month. Kaylee Burke will kick us off in leading a discussion about microaggressions. Instead of having catering available at the meeting, we will offer the green boxes from Dining Services. Send your response to Joy if you plan on attending so that we can work with the Quad on planning for the number of green boxes needed. We have confirmed the January Lunch & Learn with Kaitlin and Kylie who will present us with Title IX reporting obligations. Joy asked Lindsay if there was any interest to do something in February. Lindsay has put the ask out to Elisa but has not heard yet. She will confirm with Joy at a later date. Eric Haner offered to potentially do one on the Inclusion Leadership book that he read and asked to present on March 10th. Sarah Doherty offered to do something about inclusive dress “codes.” Sarah Meiser shared that she could find someone who could do something on Restorative Justice.

Round Table:

- Sarah D. shared that Dr. Cael Keegan will do a live presentation tonight on Zoom at 7:00 pm on “The Good and Bad of Trans Media”
- Angela shared that this is National Career Development Month and there is a panel scheduled for tonight. The link in Presence is: <https://ferris.presence.io/admin/event/diversity-recruitment-employer-panel>
- Nick shared that the CIS office has worked to obtain Anishinabek art and tools and they are on display and available hourly today and tomorrow in the UC
- Nick shared that he has been connecting with Darnell every other week to work on upcoming events. They have talked about and hope to do something for World Aids Day
- Sarah D. shared that she is working to show *Day without Art* in collaboration with KCAD DEI on December 1st, as an event to raise awareness of AIDS, but is also willing to work with Nick on something else if he wants
- Nick and his CIS team have been working on highlighting Black Greek at the athletic games.
- Danyelle shared that OMSS has officially signed on to be a partner with the Battle Creek Academy, which will provide great engagement opportunities for the students. All events, etc. this year is and will be virtual
- Raven has joined the Board of Directors for the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022 from 2-3 pm.

Submitted by Angela Palmer, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Student Life