

## **Meeting Minutes: Diversity Committee November 7, 2019**

**Present:** Angela Palmer, Joy Pufhal, Nick Campau, Kaitlin Zies, Angela Roman, Lindsay Barber, Kylie Piette, Mark Schuelke, Ashley Schulte, Sarah Doherty, and Jacob Schrot

**Absent:** Angela Garrey and Matt Chaney

### **Lunch & Learns:**

Committee members were invited to attend two lunch and learn professional development opportunities. Dr. Pilgrim hosted the first Lunch & Learn Series with a tour of the Jim Crow Museum where 20 people attended, and Sarah hosted the second one. Feedback of these opportunities are positive. There was a suggestion to conduct a formal assessment from attendees, and Angela Roman volunteered to draft a survey for future assessment purposes. Kaitlin will reach out to Tracy Busch to see about touring the Museum of Sexist Objects. Sarah will reach out to Brooke Moore as a possible presenter as well. Lindsay would like to present on a topic, but at a later date.

### **Michigan Interfaith Lab (Ashley):**

Ashley recently was a co-panelist with Kevin McIntosh, who is the Coordinator of Campus Interfaith Resources and Campus Engagement Manager at Grand Valley State University. She has asked him to be our next presenter for our Lunch & Learn Series in November.

Ashely communicated that there is a one-day conference titled, "Made in Michigan Interfaith Lab," on Saturday, February 26, 202 from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm at the Grand Rapids Grand Valley campus. This conference is open to all students and is \$10/person. Nick will present this opportunity to Student Government. Nick also shared that there is an Islamic Center located in Big Rapids.

### **Diversity & Inclusion Summit (Angela):**

Angela will send out a poster soon that will highlight details of this summit. It is scheduled for November 23, 2019, from 3-5 pm. She is still hopeful that Dr. Pilgrim will agree to be the guest speaker for this event. They have speakers confirmed for the four break-out sessions: Kaylee Burke, Matt Chaney, Sarah Doherty, and Brooke Moore. At the end of the summit, there will be a student-led panel based on the information that was received during the break-out sessions.

### **Gender Inclusive Housing & LGBTQ+ Liberation Floor (Sarah):**

Sarah wrote and shared a proposal for a LGBTQ+ Liberation House. She has learned the following information:

- All campus housing units (i.e. single rooms, double rooms, suites, apartments, etc.) will have set aside all gender inclusive options for Fall semester.
- Students will not be assigned into these specific rooms unless they opt into/choose them.
- There will be one themed floor in Bond Hall for all gender inclusive housing.
- Sarah will work with Housing to train the staff who will oversee the themed floor and other gender inclusive options.

### **A 50 State Report Card: Black Students at Public Colleges & Universities:**

Joy recently attended a Retention and Student Success Conference in DC where there was a focus on one strategic goal that is specific to inequities that exist in higher education. Shaun Harper, Executive Director of the Race and Equity Center at USC, was a guest speaker at the conference. Some of the highlights and opportunities he discussed are as follows:

- All public universities were reviewed and graded in four different areas, including the rates at which students obtain their bachelor's degree, black representation of faculty members, and gender equity within in black student population.
- Dr. Harper leads an initiative where all institutions are invited to be part of an 8 week on-line session which addresses topics around equity of access.

Joy asks that we read the article titled, "Black Students at Public Colleges and Universities," that she sent via email prior to our next meeting so we are ready to discuss in depth.

**Article Share:**

Joy forwarded the following articles to the committee that were sent by Sarah:

- "Make Sure You Affirm and Support Risk-Takers in Public, Not Private with Microappreciations."
- "How Not to Say the Wrong Thing."
- "White Women Doing White Supremacy in Nonprofit Culture."

**Additional Items/Announcements:**

Lindsay shared that next Wednesday is World Kindness Day, which evolved from an anti-bullying campaign. Lindsay and some of her team will be doing some passive tabling this day in the UC. She also shared a new program that is coming out of the Personal Counseling Center titled, "Throw Away Thursday," where students are urged to write a negative thought down on a piece of paper and throw it away in the nearby trashcan. Once they have done this, they are then asked to write a positive message to take with them.

Recently Sarah was a member of a panel on Sexist Disability. This panel discussed body image and body politics. She has recently heard concerns from larger sized students about the lack of accommodations in academic spaces (i.e. not having armless chairs, etc.)

**Next meeting:**

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2020, from 2-3 pm in UCB 211.

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