

Campus Equity & Diversity Committee Meeting
Thursday – February 21, 2008
1:30-3:30 p.m.

Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Gisselle Blanche
Lorena Cadena
Elizabeth Liu
Sarah Martin
Bob Miranda
Ruth Sipple
Marita Soler
Cindy Vyskocil
Cynthia Wafer
Vince White

Members Absent:

Cecilia Alvarado
Ann Hovey
Sharon Kelly
Leonor Monreal

Visitor(s):

Juliana Campbell

Cindy Vyskocil opened the meeting with introductions. Two new members attending today were Lorena Cadena (A.S.) and Elizabeth Liu (I.C.C.).

Approval of Minutes of January 24th Meeting

Two name spelling corrections were made (Lorena Cadena and Marita Soler). The minutes were approved with the corrections noted.

Equity & Diversity Newsletter

We will attempt to prepare and send out another “Equity and Diversity” Newsletter soon. Andrea Hanstein should be notified of upcoming speakers/events to be included in the “President’s Weekly.”

“Diversity through Art” Event

Vince White said that we need to discuss the “Diversity through Art” event that will be held on April 23rd, in conjunction with the A.S. “Day of Diversity Event.” Vince has spoken to John Hayner and Marciano Martinez about the event. Paul McKinley has asked for some things that he can help with – Cindy will contact Paul.

Bill Hayner and Marciano Martinez to get the “Diversity through Art” project going. It was suggested that perhaps it would be better to have artwork done by students for display, as well as Bill and Marciano. We have allotted \$800 for the event (for prizes and maybe banners to advertise).

Cindy suggested that we purchase art boards and stakes, and stake the art projects prepared by students. It was suggested that we place the artwork all in one area (the “free speech” area). We will order large poster paper and put an art project on each side of approximately 100 stakes that we will order. We could give the poster boards to two classes – Bill and Marciano may have ideas for the posters. We will have to have rules; it is important that students be able to express themselves through art, but cannot include anything distasteful. We may

be able to order the poster boards in advance from the Bookstore. We should include creative writing and poetry, as well as artwork. We will have to send notices to classes letting them know when to pick-up the poster boards and when the artwork will be due back.

Action: Etta will check on reserving the “free speech” area for April 23rd for our art projects, along with the “Festival of Diversity” Event sponsored by A.S.

Student Concerns

It was brought to the committee’s attention that the students have several concerns:

- Students would like the Diversity Center to look like a Diversity Center. At the present time, no artwork, etc. can be displayed in the center. We need to check to see how items could be displayed in the Diversity Center without breaking the rules. Perhaps we could start looking at creative/classic ways that we could possibly get permission to display artwork. It was suggested that some of the problem may be A.S. procedures.
- Students discussed the situation of sashes for Commencement. The students will be attending Commencement meetings and should put forth their desire for sashes to be reinstated to the Commencement regalia. Bob Miranda suggested that an advisory group be set up for this situation – it should be a District Advisory Group; Cypress College still use sashes for Commencement.
- Juliana discussed that the students would like to participate in the “International Day of Silence” to be held on April 25th. LAMDA would like to participate by handing out information on April 21st. These items should be put on the agenda. Students should go through the Cadena Center (Vince White) on this item. Sarah will be in charge.
- It was noted that students do not have an advocate, if they have an issue or a complaint. They need someone to help.

It was suggested that students have power and that they should voice their opinions. We have very strong women on the committee and they should be able to work on the student problems and have them heard. Students should put their concerns in writing on their issues:

- A. Sashes for Commencement
- B. Multi-Cultural Center (with a Multi-Cultural atmosphere)
- C. No secure funds for Diversity Events (institutionalization of funding) –not on-going; cannot plan for the future
- D. Student Advocacy

Crisis Alert

Students feel they need a crisis alert system. On websites for other universities, it has been noticed that they send out amplified alerts. A Threat Assessment Team

as been informed. We should be able to get together and notify students of a person or persons of which students are afraid, etc.

Students were told to call Campus Safety, if they feels threatened or afraid.

Action: Cindy will take back to the A.S. Advisor that A.S. and I.C.C. students will not be afraid. Bob will discuss this matter with Peter Fong when he returns to campus.

I.C.C. Club Awards Night

I.C.C. Club Awards Night will be held on the evening of May 2, 2008, in the Campus Theatre. The students are hoping to put together a committee to meet every two weeks. Awards would be given to outstanding students on campus. The guest of honor for the event will be Adela Lopez. Many dignitaries are scheduled to attend. The students were asked to give the committee feedback on this at the next meeting.

Action: Juliana will contact Etta Dial regarding a play in the Quad.

KinderCaminata

Cynthia Wafer announced that we are holding a book drive for KinderCamanata this year. Many people have books for children (new or gently used) that can be donated in the boxes around campus. We will also take monetary contributions to purchase books.

Dynamic Fund Proposals

Dynamic Fund proposals will be due soon; who will take care of the proposal? This year, we were awarded \$6,600. We will ask for the same amount for next year, perhaps even \$7,000. There is a problem, since we get our funding so late that it makes it difficult to get speakers/events set-up before Spring. Vince suggested that this should be institutionalized, so that we will be able to work on the next year's events. PAC approved us for on-going funds when we applied for this year, but it did not happen. It was suggested that Faculty members need information sooner on speakers/events, so that they can plan for a semester ahead. Cindy will discuss this with PAC, and will talk to Ethan as well. Students should write letters directly to PAC regarding their concerns (I.C.C. President, Latino Leadership Network, etc.).

Cindy will return to campus on March 6th. We will prepare the proposal for Dynamic Funds (due to the Business Office by April 1st), along with a spending plan. Then we will go to PAC (Vince included, as well as students, faculty, etc.)

The next meeting will be held on March 27th, 1:30 p.m., LLRC/Room #822.