

College of Education Diversity Committee

9/21/18

MINUTES

In attendance: Patty Kirsch, Joe Waters, Laura Cushing, Mena Marinaccio, Dilys Schoorman, Hani Zainuddin, Ayse Torres, Angela Rhone, John Hardman.

1. Welcome

The committee extended a warm welcome to the committee's new members, Ayse Torres and Mena Marinaccio.

2. FAU Diversity Platform Council update

Dilys and John to request to have the council centralize the dissemination of university-wide diversity-related events and activities. The members were asked to reiterate that we are currently offering a number of events to celebrate [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) in addition to events and activities organized by the [LGBT+ Resource Center](#).

3. Member Reports

a. Undergraduate Certificate/ Minor in Diversity and Global Studies – Dilys Schoorman

Dilys brought us up to speed on the status of the program. Two courses are offered by CCEI and two from other programs across the university (12 credits). The program has been cleared at the College level and is now going on to the University qualifying committee. There is a concern with the availability of financial aid for students.

Action item: Dilys to present at Freshman advising. Joe Waters to help.

b. Diversity Data Report – Laura Cushing

Patty shared the background and purpose of the report, such as the value of the report to researchers and faculty.

Laura summarized the most important data:

- Non-resident aliens have increased significantly.
- Gender can now be selected as male, female, and not reporting.

Action item: Request that 'minority' in the report be changed to historically underrepresented populations.

Question on provenance of students. Patty suggested that it may be possible to identify students' origin by zip code. Zip codes may not be totally accurate, but could provide an idea of the main geographical origins of students.

Action Item: Members of the Committee are encouraged to share the information in the Data Diversity Report with their departments/units and to bring comments and feedback back to the committee.

4. Ongoing

a. Diversity Committee Website

<http://www.coe.fau.edu/facultystaff/committees/diversity.php>

John to update the list of members.

Suggested new menu items:

- Curriculum
- Events & Activities
- Dissertations
- Links

b. Student Success Initiatives

i. Selected Improvement Plan (SIP)

Now includes graduate students. Faculty have been querying the SIP with greater frequency. Some chairs are following up with students whose GPA has dropped or have not registered for classes as they have done before.

Recommendation: College or University would benefit from a retention specialist who can provide the advising that students may need in order to move forward successfully. It could be possible to have Graduate Assistants take on this role.

Action Item: Patty and Laura extended an invitation to the members to contact them in order to learn how to use the SIP.

ii. General Knowledge test: Joe Waters will be meeting with Palm Beach State College to continue working towards having students take the GK within the first year at PBSC.

iii. Academic Reading and Writing:

Patty shared the idea of a 'bootcamp', designed to provide students with special

support, usually remedial, on topics such as academic writing. Similar initiatives could be to provide FTCE coaching over the winter break for students who fail related courses.

- iv. Board of Trustees: At our meeting on October 26, Patty and Dilys will report on the Trustees' SWAT, which may include diversity-related items.

5. Other

Bill Bigelow will be coming to offer an all-day workshop at Pine Jog on environmental justice. Wed, 11/14, 9:00 – 3:30.

Action Item: Dilys to email information to circulate.

John has been invited to provide the closing keynote at the national conference on sustainability, hosted by the government of Costa Rica.

Action Item on Undergraduate Student Representative on the Committee: Please send John (whardma1@fau.edu) a brief bio of students you would recommend to participate on the committee. It is understood that students would not become permanent members, but be invited to come when relevant.

6. Tentative Goals for 2018 – 19

- a. Ensure University-wide diversity related events and activities are disseminated through the Dean's office.
- b. Continue exploring and recommending support strategies on academic reading and writing.
- c. Continue developing - and potentially formalize - support for state tests such as GK, FTCE, particularly for transfer students. This could be a research project. Palm Beach State College is working with Joe Waters on the GK initiative (see above).
- d. Explore the possibility of a retention specialist/counselor, or of training Graduate Assistants in this role.

7. Next meeting: Friday, October 26, 10:00 am, Melby Center.