

# Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2016, 10:00 am.

College of Education - Melby Center

In attendance:

- John Hardman - Educational Leadership & Research Methodology
- Laura Cushing - Accreditation and Assessment
- Dilys Schoorman - Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry
- Hanizah Zainuddin - Curriculum, Culture, and Educational Inquiry (by phone)
- Melissa Mariani - Counselor Education
- Rina Bousalis - Teaching and Learning
- Carol Tessel - Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Michael Zourdos - Exercise Science & Health Promotion (by phone)
- Joe Waters - Office for Academic & Student Services

Dr. Hardman called the meeting to order with a welcome and introductions

## **University Diversity Council**

Dr. Hardman updated the committee on FAU's Diversity Council by sharing news that they now have a budget of \$100,000. The goals of the committee are TBD. Their recent meeting included a discussion on the strong push for faculty and staff interaction in student engagement across campuses regarding diversity. Goals and issues of collaboration are forthcoming.

## **Committee Goal(s) for 2016-2017**

The committee embarked on a discussion regarding goals for the current year. Dr. Hardman introduced the spreadsheet from Accreditation and Assessment which looked at ethnicity, major, GPA and grades in freshman writing courses.

Laura Cushing explained the data collection (10 lowest GPA's and 10 highest GPA's - ENC 1101/ENC 1102 grades). Data showed a connection between low GPA and poor grades in the classes. Laura also explained that the majority of students with poor grades in the writing classes are transfer students (as the majority of students – more than half - in the program are transfer students). Dr. Hardman suggested looking at students who had to *repeat* ENC 1101/ENC 1102 to determine if it correlated with current low GPA. Laura also explained that several database sources were employed to collect the data (BANNER, Leap Ahead, OASS database etc.). A discussion of the data, and what additional data should be collected, ensued.

Dr. Hardman suggested that we try to obtain data on the students who struggle in ENC 1101/1102 and see if there is a connection to their performance in COE classes, especially if the class or classes are writing intensive. Dr. Schoorman volunteered EDF 2085 as a course for possible data collection and faculty involvement.

Dr. Hardman informed the group that FAU's Center for Teaching and Learning has tutors in English (and math) for students who are struggling, but acknowledged that there is resistance from students to utilize the resource.

Dr. Zainuddin explained to the group several of the factors which second language learners face with English. The group looked at how to approach collecting data in the most effective manner with a specific goal in mind with the idea of putting something in place that will have a positive impact.

Dr. Mariani suggested that we begin with a pilot project related to EDF 2085 to obtain before we set a specific goal. Dr. Schoorman suggested looking at the students from fall, 2015 and spring, 2016 EDF 2085 classes (taken at FAU) and looking to see if there was a correlation between their performance in that class and their performance in ENC 1101/1102. The data collected will be from all majors, and not just elementary education. Demographic information, admit term, PT vs. FT status and overall GPA will also be included. Once the data is collected and reviewed, discussions about remediation can begin.

Dr. Tessel pointed out that we'll have to review carefully to see if our data connect struggling students to second language learner status, as the initial sample didn't necessarily point that out. The conversation continued that our self-reporting process makes second learner status difficult to obtain. The group discussed our mission as a Diversity Committee, specifically to whom we are providing services, and that up until now that has been to traditionally been underserved populations. As our data collection moves forward, the next step may be to use survey information and a ratings scale to collect information on amount of hours worked per week and amount of classes taken as well as a self-reported assessment of writing skills. This survey will be developed.

Dr. Hardman brought up the issue of graduate students, and how they may be in need of writing remediation as well. Additional strategies for assisting this population were discussed.

### **Goal for the year**

The committee is encouraged to review the minutes for any items not currently when they are circulated to the group. Dr. Hardman will be creating a brief report from today's meeting to help us solidify our goals. Dr. Hardman will also reach out to Dr. Galen who is in charge of the campus writing center to see if we can synthesize our collective services across campuses. Dr. Galen will speak to the committee on December 2.

### **Next meeting**

Scheduled in the Melby Center, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

### **Adjourn**