

College of Education Diversity Committee

2/22/19

MINUTES

Attending: John Hardman, Angela Rhone, Carol Tessel, Joe Waters, Hani Zainuddin.

1. FAU Diversity Platform Council update

a. Diversity Symposium, Thursday, January 24

The event was very well attended by faculty and staff. More needs to be done to encourage students to participate. Among the activities was an excellent panel moderate by Dr. Cynthia Wilson. One of the major attractions was Tunnel Vision, a series of immersive student-led exhibits on topics of human trafficking, electoral violations against minorities, etc. Most interesting was the School to Prison Pipeline exhibit. With regard to issues similar to this, Angela recommended the movie 13th, available on Netflix, about the 13th amendment.

2. College Events and Activities

a. FAU-Palm Beach County School District collaboration on Black Educational Excellence, ED 119, Saturday, February 23. Participants will include Black, Black Hispanic, LGBTQ, and students from other underrepresented populations. Following there will be a town hall and dialogue sessions between students, teachers, school administrators, FAU faculty, police departments. One intention of the event is to develop strategies to increase inclusiveness in order to improve the environment in which students are brought up in their communities and schools.

b. Stoneman Douglas Commemoration: FAU Davie campus police came to speak to a group convened on the Davie campus about gun violence and how to address it.

3. Member Reports

a. Broward County police officer harassment [video](#)

Question: "How do we, as an institution, respond to this?" The thinking is that we do not have to wait for a worse tragedy to react. What, if anything, is our obligation to do something?

Comments:

Angela: I teach this in class, and I include mental illness. I refer students who are disturbed to counselors.

Carol: I teach multicultural classes, and address how important it is to understand how different others perceive reality in the United States (black people, Hispanics, other immigrant populations).

Hani: This is an issue that affects us all, and in the current climate we can't sit on the fence. This (video) shows a violation of civil rights. FAU is becoming an MSI as well as an HSI. Can students feel safe living in this area and going to our campuses if we don't take a stand as an institution? Can we offer multicultural training?

Angela: Davie offers some superficial training in cultural sensitivity.

Hani asked if there are other organizations that we can connect to that can raise awareness? We can write op eds in the media.

Angela: For Black History Month, she will be offering an overview on the African, Caribbean, and U.S. black experience called African Humanity in the U.S. and Caribbean. This will be held on Wednesday, Feb 27, 4-5 pm, in Heritage Hall, on the Davie Campus.

Field Trip: Angela and Nori Carter are organizing a trip on diversity to the African Research Museum (Sistrunk Boulevard, Broward), and the Holocaust Memorial in Miami, April 5, 8:30 – 4:00 pm.

John: Graduates from Stoneman Douglas are now freshmen students, some of whom are in our classes and exhibit PTSD. We need to do everything possible to ensure students in circumstances such as these can connect effectively with the FAU counseling services.

Recommendations

- i. **Rationale:** A review of the FAU website doesn't reveal a comprehensive approach to safety and inclusion.

Action item: John (and Dilys) will bring this to the FAU Diversity Platform Council to push for an official position statement from President Kelly and a review of the existing safety systems in place at FAU.

4. Next meeting TBC: March 22. Please confirm if you will attend.