

4-4-2016

MEC minutes 04/04/2016 - Admissions

Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee

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Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee, "MEC minutes 04/04/2016 - Admissions" (2016). *Multi-Ethnic Programs Committee*. 9.
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Multi Ethnic Experience Committee
Director of Admissions, Ben Iverson
April 4, 2016
2:00 pm

Present: Ben Iverson, Farah Gilanshah, Nick Two Bears, Hilda Ladner, Simon Franco, Jeremy O'Hara, Jessica Porwoll

Not Present: Tom Genova, Matthew Linder, Jena Lipham, Michael Ceballos, Jenna Ray (leave), Solomon Gashaw, T.J. Ross

Gilanshah introduced history of diverse students on campus.

Iverson discussed initiatives currently in place to diversify students including purchasing ACT scores from around the world and international travel for recruitment.

Farah discussed the use of agencies to recruit students. Simon suggested using alumni of color to assist with student recruitment.

Admissions applications from students of color were down for this year, but admissions were up, meaning that we accepted more high quality students. Thus far, Ben feels were on pace to have quality numbers for the coming year.

Hmong house event was missed this year. Admissions feels these events are important to recruitment and is interested in participating in these events in the future and hosting similar events for area Latino families.

Admitted students recognition luncheon was held a few weeks ago. Admissions hosted a bus for students to visit from the Twin Cities. About 50 students attended.

KIPP (similar to college possible) connections are being established. Admissions is also working with student groups to bring diverse visitors to campus.

Gus has been helpful in student recruitment in American Indian communities.

Potential recruitment opportunities exist through building connections with the SSS program. SSS can't recruit directly, but admissions could assist in recruitment of current TRIO students.

The committee briefly discussed strengthening Chicago connections. Ben noted that the Chicago area is highly recruited currently.

Simon noted that while he was a student Voces Unidas students would recruit at conference each year. Other student groups on campus have also done this successfully.

Cristina Montanez spends a couple of weeks in El Paso each fall/spring.

Simon asked about the view of diversity in admissions staff composition. Ben is interested in continuing to grow diversity among the admissions staff and also shows interest in further diversifying staff and faculty on campus.

UMM is making progress on international student involvement. New MCSA president is an international student.

We could ask faculty to share UMM message during their around the world travels. Centralize information on where faculty are traveling, etc, so that admissions can use. Can they take brochures, etc? Alumni in other cities could also participate in recruitment efforts.

Nick will send Ben an email requesting pdf items that he can share with friends who are looking at colleges.

Questions for further discussion during the meeting included:

Can we be raising scholarship funds for international students from alumni? How can we pinpoint opportunities and make scholarships more available? Reasonable price is a huge driver for students.

How can the multi-ethnic experience committee contribute to strengthen recruitment efforts?

- Sharing stories, alums that are doing great things
- Funneling information to admissions to share in communication plan
- Should we meet quarterly? Continued dialogue is important.