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Equity and Diversity Committee

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9-16-2011

### MEC minutes 09/16/2011

Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee

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**University of Minnesota, Morris**  
**MULTI-ETHNIC STUDENT PROGRAM**

**To:** Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee (MEC) Members  
**From:** Bonnie Tipcke, Recording Secretary  
**Subject:** **September 16, 2011, MEC Minutes**

**Present:** Nancy Carpenter-chair, Vicente Cabrera, Solomon Gashaw, Bryan Herrmann, Hilda Ladner, Shirley Miller, Stacey Rosana, Cha Vue

**Absent:** Brittany Anderson, Kali Dale, Brooks Jessup (semester leave)

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The Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee met at 3:30 p.m. on September 16, 2011, in the Prairie Lounge.

The minutes of the September 16, 2011, MEC meeting were approved as written.

**Announcements and recap of last meeting**

A copy of the Action List from the 9/1/11 meeting was attached to today's agenda.

Luciana Ranelli talked to Carpenter about the MSLR. We will ask their planning group to talk with the MEC in an effort to be more aware of activities related to diversity.

**Update on "Diversity Fact Sheet"**

Bryan Herrmann said a draft of the Diversity Fact Sheet will be ready by the next meeting. He asked for advice on determining what opportunities should be included. Carpenter suggested keeping it simple. It will be sent as a pdf so people can print it out. We plan to have a web page that would list every single opportunity we are aware of that is available anywhere for our students of color.

One issue we have is that there is no central place for students to go to learn about available opportunities, but opinions vary as to where that should be and how EDI and ACE, for example, will be linked to it. Student members think the EDI page is the best place to list opportunities for students of color, while another member doesn't think they should have a separate place to go for information.

Ladner offered to ask one of her staff to look at ACE's webpage to see what can be linked to EDI's page. The ACE link could just have wording about a large number of opportunities available without listing them all on EDI's page.

MEC faculty members will talk to their respective divisions to see if they are aware of opportunities specifically for students of color. Carpenter will check with Education. Ladner will send a memo to division chairs requesting information from them as well.

Herrmann was asked to also work on a poster in addition to the pdf fact sheet. The poster should include the URL to the EDI page.

### **Update on Ice Cream Social**

We had discussed sponsoring an ice cream social as a way of letting people know that the MEC exists and to celebrate diversity in general. It took a long time to get a quote from Sodexo, and when we did it was \$444 for 200 people! So, with the prohibitive cost and the temperatures getting colder, we won't be having an ice cream social. Ladner suggested that we change it to hot chocolate and cookies and, perhaps, ask IPC to co-sponsor the event. Carpenter said she had visited with Pilar Eble, ISP coordinator, to see if it would be beneficial for the MEC to have a connection with the International Programs Committee. Eble said the IPC is moving away from focusing on international students and shifting toward other topics, so it probably won't make sense to ask them to co-sponsor our event.

Suggestions for replacing the ice cream social were solicited. Ideas included having a bonfire and making s'mores and having an event featuring "culturally diverse" teas, Mexican hot chocolate or, more generally, beverages from around the world. We could have information available about what we do and our plans for this year. We could talk to student organizations ahead of time to encourage them to attend.

### **New agenda item – Limbo land for international students**

In light of the news that the IPC is changing its focus, we are concerned about what that means for international students. We continue to think their concerns are different than those of students of color and should be kept separate. What exactly is the charge of the IPC? What programs/initiatives are being developed for international students? We will need more information before finishing this discussion.

Ladner asked why the MEC had wanted to talk with Eble. Carpenter said she had initially assumed the MEC did work with international students. Gashaw said that they don't qualify for any of the opportunities that students of color do, so it wouldn't make sense for us to work with them in the MEC. Since Tim Soderberg is the current chair of the IPC, we will invite him to our next meeting to answer some of our questions.

### **Faculty of Color Initiative Update**

Cabrera said the statistics regarding numbers of faculty of color are dismal. UMM will be hiring several tenure track positions in the upcoming years, and we can encourage more emphasis on increasing the number of people of color in these searches. It was suggested that we ask Bart Finzel and Sarah Mattson to a future meeting to discuss this further.