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MEC minutes 11/04/2013

Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee

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Multi-Ethnic Experience Committee, Fall 2013
November 4, 2013

Present: Jennifer Deane, chair, Shirley Miller, Hilda Ladner, Eric Gandrud, Michael Ceballos, TJ Ross, David Ericksen

Absent: Solomon Gashaw, Stacey Rosana, Pengxieu Thao, Daniel Rodriguez, Tracy Peterson

The meeting was called to order at 12:01. The minutes from the October 7th meeting were approved.

DiversiTea Event

It was suggested that the DiversiTea event be moved to coincide with the visit of Katrice Albert. HL announced that Albert would be spending the night in Morris, so we would not need to shift the time for her to be present. JD suggested we reserve the Alumni Room from 3 to 4:30, a slight shift in schedule. JD will reserve the room at the new time.

Food will be funded from HL's office, and we have records from last year to indicate what we served then. TJR will contact Sodexo to arrange refreshments.

JD suggested the goal of the event is to connect students with the committee and inform them about campus resources. JD suggested a questionnaire asking students to suggest what MEC can do.

HL suggested we use the DiversiTea to give Katrice Albert a platform to introduce herself to the Morris campus.

JD: KA could open the Diversitea with comments and then ask for questions.

HL: A World Café format is possible. Have table topics and people shift every ten minutes or so.

TJ: With such a come and go format, the event will be informal.

JD: Questions for KA? Do we want to tell her about last year's meeting?

HL: KA started work in July, so this is her first visit here.

JD: So our goal is to educate her about our campus?

HL: Yes. We should advocate for more pre doc fellows and other support to diversify campus. We've lost ground over the last 15 years.

HL: do we want to sit down with her for 30 minutes before the tea? HL suggested MEC meet with KA at about 2:30 or so Monday.

Diversity Award Update

SM will pass the award proposal on to Alison Alliband for checking. JD and HL will approach the Chancellor for money.

Faculty Workshop

Last year we had a workshop focusing on Hmong students. JD asked if anyone had any ideas for a focus this year.

MC: there are some generalizations about Chinese students. Do we have plans for working with them?

JD: The Chinese students fall more under International Programs than MEC's mandate. Better coordination is important.

HL: But we could collaborate on these issues as we think about classroom diversity issues.

JD: Thinks the format from last year's event could be applied to Chinese students.

EG: some International Education Week material on differences in Chinese and American styles of learning.

JD: Is anyone working with students on research on Chinese culture?

HL: Some student oriented materials are available. HL will find them.

World Touch

JD: Do we have any preferences for time and place for World Touch? The Moccasin Flower room worked. Times? TJR will check on dates.

Connection with Faculty

JD asked how we can get more involvement from more of the MEC related faculty.

EG: Could we link their activities with URS projects? Faculty would display something about their MEC related work.

North Star

The North Star mess was briefly discussed.

MC: could we get some communications person to workshop diverse communications strategies? Handshaking for example. Looking in the eye. Cross-cultural gestures?

HL: Tony Acuna could come back perhaps?

MC: He could discuss different ways of working.

HL: Can the grants office provide any information on faculty research on MEC related issues? JD will ask Roger.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45