

Diversity In Action Group
Meeting Notes
October 14, 2014

Members Present: Sylvia Aguirre-Alberto, Fauzi Hamadeh, Makiko Ueda, Oliver Li, Henry Villareal

Guests: Krystal Romero, Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, Fi Tovo, Theresa Martin, Lorena Gonzalez, Jon Kitamura

Review of the Agenda

Agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the DIAG Meeting Notes of April 15, 2014

Meeting notes approved as presented.

Diversity Planning Committee Update

Sylvia provided an overview of the proposals that have been requested and approved thus far for the fall semester. The approved events include the Latin Filipino Connections being coordinated by Lisa Melnick; Rudy Ramirez' World Beat Groove; and a dialogue with Stanford Professor and Pulitzer Prize Author Adam Johnson which is being organized by Tim Maxwell. At present, \$2,500 of the \$4,000 annual budget remains. Sylvia also mentioned that the survey form now includes an SQR link so that attendees can use a smartphone to complete the survey.

A suggestion was made to request an increase in funding for DIAG sponsored events. For more than ten years the DIAG budget has remained the same with an annual budget of \$4,000. Henry will take the lead in securing an increase to the budget.

Student Equity Plan

A request was sent out by Vice President Hughes to the college community for any additional feedback. The College's Student Equity Plan is to be presented to the Board of Trustees at the November 24 meeting. It is expected that the Board will approve the plan at their subsequent meeting scheduled for December 10.

Draft of DIAG Goals and Objectives

Henry noted that a draft of the 2013-2015 Goals and Objectives will be presented at a future meeting.

MANA Project Planning Committee Update

Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza shared that a MANA Committee has been established. Members include Fi Tovo, Deborah Laulusa, David "Vika" Palaita, Sandra Comerford, Frederick Gaines, Lorena Gonzalez, Kate Motoyama, Krystal Romero, Henry Villareal, and Jennifer Taylor Mendoza. The committee will hold its first meeting on October 22. Jennifer noted that everyone is excited about the development of the MANA Project which is targeted to commence in fall 2015.

Safe Zone Training

Fauzi announced that CSM will be holding a Gay Alliance SafeZone Train-the-Trainer event on Friday, December 5 from 9 am – 5 pm. The program is being hosted by CSM and sponsored by the California Community Colleges Student Mental Health Program. The purpose of the program is “to develop confident, knowledgeable and effective SafeZone trainers who can work towards developing and maintaining environments that are culturally competent and supportive to LGBTQ students, faculty and staff, as well as straight allies on their college campuses.” Participants need to register for this event. Contact Fauzi for more information.

Culturally Responsive Training

Theresa Martin shared information about a Culturally Responsive Training Workshop she learned about at a recent conference. The workshop addresses the topics of culture, race, and social capital in the classroom and the workplace. There was agreement from the committee that this type of workshop is something to consider providing as a professional development activity. Theresa, Jennifer and Henry will consider developing professional development activities that focus on topics such as culturally responsive training. Student Equity Funds may be a potential source of funding for such activities.

Program Updates

Representatives from Puente, Multicultural Center, BSI and EOPS shared brief updates on their programs. A couple of concerns were shared. First, Krystal noted there is a need to more comprehensively address the basic skills students. Data confirm that basic skills students are not progressing to the next course level in English and math. More emphasis needs to be directed to helping these students transition to college and transfer course levels. Second, current programs like Puente and Umoja, while excellent programs which foster student success, target students who are only one course level above the college or transfer level. While success for these students are exemplary, these programs are essentially limited to one year. The college needs to incorporate additional support mechanisms to ensure ongoing student success.

Oliver also noted the need to ensure support of international students. Henry noted that the International Student Center does provide support services for these students and any ideas that Oliver may have should be shared with the ISC staff.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2015