Diversity In Action Group - Institutional Planning Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Members in Attendance: Henry Villareal (Chair), Sylvia Aguirre-Alberto, Martin Bednarek, Fauzi Hamadeh, Alexander Quintana, John Vehikite

Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was reviewed and no additional items were added.

Approval of April 19 Meeting Notes

Meeting Notes of April 19 were not available. To be approved at next meeting.

Meeting with President Claire

A review of a meeting held with President Claire to address an incident that transpired during an Associated Students meeting was discussed. Sylvia, Alex and Henry shared their perspectives on the meeting. It was noted that a broad representation of students, faculty and administrators were present. The primary discussion was around how to ensure such incidents are readily dealt with should they happen again. The incident involved a community member not affiliated with CSM who made derogatory remarks towards CSM student Alex Quintana, a member of the CSM Student Government and also a the student representative to DIAG. President Claire strongly emphasized that such incidents would not be tolerated at CSM. As part of the follow up to the incident, County Counsel was contacted to determine whether or not such disruptive behavior is sufficient reason to remove someone from campus. It was confirmed that anyone disrupting a meeting can indeed be removed from the campus. Campus Security has been apprised of this information. The meeting which lasted more than an hour concluded with lots of ideas and suggestions but with no defined action plan.

Classroom Incident

Martin Bednarek, Counseling Faculty member shared an incident in which two San Mateo Police Officers entered his classroom and approached the only African American student in the classroom whom was then asked to accompany the police officers out of the classroom. The student did so without hesitation. As it turned out, the police officers had mistakenly assumed the student was the individual they were seeking; primarily because he was black. Unfortunately, the police officers assumed that because the student was black, he was the individual they were seeking. The incident was reported to President Claire, Vice President Hughes and Vice President Estes by DIAG Chair Henry Villareal. President Claire noted that he would follow up with the San Mateo Police Department Management to determine if entering a classroom and accompany a student out of the classroom is appropriate. It is unfortunate that this incident took place particularly since the student who was confronted as not the individual the offices were seeking. The student is to be commended for taking the incident in stride. Both Instructor Bednarek and Vice President Hughes spoke to the student to ensure he had not been traumatized by the incident.

DIAG, BSI, EMC Meeting Update

A meeting of the three committees was held to discuss ways in which the college might support the needs of underrepresented students and contribute to strategies that address student success, persistence and retention. An outcome of the meeting was to seek institutional support for a Multicultural/Puente Counselor position. It is expected that members of the three committees will meet over the summer to develop a proposal that would support the MCC/Counselor position.

DIAG Planning Committee Update

Sylvia outlined that next year the Planning Committee should try to ensure that events are spread out throughout the year and not be so concentrated. Given the recent racially motivated incidents, it was suggested that an event that celebrates diversity be held on campus. Another suggestion was to identify a facilitator who could conduct a workshop that addresses intolerance.

Next Meeting: Fall 2011