Diversity Task Force  
December 9, 2009  
Meeting Notes

1. Laura did a quick demonstration of using Sakai. Announcements, notes, resources, and chats will be hosted through Sakai, so please send Peter Larsen (plarsen@uri.edu) your name and employee identification number so that he can add you to the site. If you need help in using Sakai, please contact Peter or Laura (Beauvais@uri.edu). Meeting notes will be placed in the Modules tool by date of the meeting.

2. Provost DeHayes discussed development of the three subcommittees of the task force:
   a. Developing Learning Outcomes for Multicultural Competence: Refine the meaning of multicultural competence and develop a set of learning outcomes that reflect this competency for curriculum development.
   b. Building a Campus Climate for Diversity: Develop actions that would improve campus climate, develop faculty to be conscious of and motivated to engage in efforts to enhance multicultural competence, and design rewards and incentives for engaging in diversity efforts.
   c. Designing a Diversity Forum on Campus: Plan a forum or jamming session for Spring 2010 to seek ways to deal with diversity challenges on campus (e.g., hate crimes) and explore ideas for future development.

Since developing actions on campus climate issues (subcommittee 2) are longer term, we decided that we first would develop the subcommittees for developing learning outcomes for multicultural competence and for designing a diversity forum, with the work of these two subcommittees informing work of the to-be-formed campus climate subcommittee. Based on polling of members of the task force and random assignment of others who did not respond to the request for choices, the membership of the two subcommittees is listed below. If you would like to be re-assigned to the other subcommittee, please let Laura know.

Developing Learning Outcomes for Multicultural Competence

Earl Smith  
Paul Mangiameli  
Anne Hume  
Nasser Zawia  
Peter Larsen  
Laurie Lauzon-Clabo  
Rainer Lohmann  
Wylie Dassie  
Annu Matthew  
Naomi Caldwell
Designing a Diversity Forum on Campus

Nkoli Onye
Kyle Kusz
Mayrai Gindy
Tammy Vargas Warner
Marcia Morreira
Trish Morokoff
Charles Watson
Dania Brandford-Calvo
Ray Watson
Joanne Lynch

Subcommittee members are asked to do some research on their respective topics over the break (e.g., multicultural competence learning outcomes; courses on cultural competence at other universities; diversity/multicultural events and/or activities at other universities; etc.) and send information to Peter or Laura to put on the Sakai site. We have tentatively assigned a date for the diversity forum for the week of April 5th, where a series of different events and activities will take place over several days. Trish Morokoff has developed a draft of suggested activities that might take place in the diversity forum. Her ideas are in the Forum tool of the Sakai site where you may add your own comments and ideas. These ideas also follow below.

We will be meeting on February 2, March 10, and April 15th next semester at the University Club from 3-4:30 PM.
Diversity Forum

The Diversity Task Force of the Division of Academic Affairs is planning a Diversity Forum for a specific day during the week of April 5th, Spring 2010. A forum might look something like this: a campus wide event with diversity-related activities everywhere on campus. These could include:

- Teach-ins in classrooms in which all instructors would be invited to spend some time in class teaching on an aspect of diversity related to the topic of the course, or inviting someone into the class to teach on a diversity topic.
- Members of the community encouraged to wear native clothing
- Residence halls celebrate the cultural backgrounds of students by offering cultural information, food, or other programs related to the heritage of the residents.
- Events on the quad: a diversity quilt? Could we have a quilt with squares representing elements of diversity on campus or other symbol of diversity?
- Each college would sponsor programs in their academic buildings. Here are a few ideas related to different departments.
  - Global fashion show organized by TMD
  - Psychology: demonstrations of bias and judgments—take a computer test
  - Music —roots of music: folk, jazz, Latin
  - Film—social justice in film
  - Allied Health—health disparities; race/ethnicity and treatment
  - Sciences—how sciences interact with culture; women and minorities in the sciences
  - Communication—cross cultural communication
  - English—poetry and fiction from diverse authors
  - Sociology—societal racism, privilege
- I could envision a dance at the end of the day featuring music from different cultures
- We could invite a noted author to speak
- Here is a partial list of individuals who would need to be contacted:
  - Faculty—invite to participate in the teach-in
  - Deans—invite to plan events in their colleges
  - Residence hall directors and RA’s—plan events in the residence halls
  - Memorial union staff—the union could be the site for various events. If possible, food celebrating various ethnic cuisines could be on the menu at campus restaurants
  - Student Affairs Diversity organizations, e.g. Multicultural Center, GLBT Center, Women’s Center
Student organizations including Asian Student Assoc., CIAO, Catholic Center, El Son Sensual Dance, GLBT-OutRI, Hillel, Indian Student Assoc., LASA, Leadership and mentor program for women of color, Muslim Student Assoc., NASO, PINK Women, Uhuru Sasa, Korean Graduate Student Assoc. among others.