Division of Academic Affairs  
Diversity Task Force  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016  
3-4:30 PM  
President’s Conference Room, Green Hall  
Minutes

Present: Don DeHayes, Laura Beauvais, Peter Larsen, Furong Xu, Diane Kern, Michelle Fontes Barros, Alicia Austin, David Bidwell, Fernando Guzman, Barb Silver, Karen Wishner, Janie Palm.

1. The minutes of February 23, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Announcements
   a. Multicultural Faculty Fellowship in Philosophy appointed: Dr. James Haile. He will start in Fall 2016.
   b. New series of talks in Graduate School: Food for Thought. All at 4:30.
   c. April 18: Galanti Lounge—talk about digital divide by Jessamine West (1-2:00 pm)
   d. Women@URI—“Leading for Change”—April 6--8:30-1:00. Result will be the development of a summer workshop on strategic planning.

3. Subcommittee Actions:
   a. Use of Multicultural Enhancement Funds to support grants for faculty to develop courses for meeting the Diversity and Inclusion Outcome in the General Education Program. Members: Furong Xu, Diane Kern, Zahra Meghani, Lynne Derbyshire. Diane Kern has agreed to lead this effort. The discussion focused on developing a large section class with a plenary and then facilitated discussion by faculty in recitation sessions. Possibility of hiring a graduate student to help develop topics and resources. Need three to four faculty to help facilitate the course. Lynne has mentioned other faculty who may be interested. Diane has already developed EDC 100 for the new general education program that could be a model for this course.

   b. Diversity training for faculty. Members: Michelle Fontes-Barros, Nancy Doyle-Moss, Lynne Derbyshire, Trish Morokoff, Fernando Guzman. No update at this time as the subcommittee meets tomorrow. Concern is how to keep building capacity to keep the program running in the future. It was recommended that Josh Caulkins and Eric Kaldor be involved.

   c. Diversity seminar program for graduate students. Members: Alicia Austin, Karen Wishner, Betsy Cooper, David Hayes, Annemarie Vaccaro,
and Lynne Derbyshire. Michele Rosa is on board to be involved in the program, delivering the foundational workshop. Graduate students are being surveyed now about the topics, credits, etc. Alicia has presented a tentative budget. Professional development staff, if hired, will assist in coordination. A certificate will be granted if 4 workshops are attended. There is the possibility of moving these online through interactive webinars. For certification, we will need to talk to Jack Humphrey about how to make these official. 999 code on transcript upon completion?

How to drum up support: Graduate Student Orientation; first seminar class; TA workshops in August; Program directors can also encourage students in their programs.

d. Multicultural Faculty Fellowship: need subcommittee to review applications due on April 25—volunteers? We need to revisit the program and evaluate its effectiveness and potential changes. A small subcommittee could work on this during the summer.

4. New Business

a. ACE Initiative: Barb Silver. Presidential initiative started at URI in 2013. She would like to have the endorsement of this task force to help support some of the initiatives that it thinks are worthwhile to pursue. At our next meeting, we will look at the ACE initiatives and determine which of these we want to work on within the task force.

b. Evaluation of the task force accomplishments, membership, and future work. Membership renewals need to be on the next agenda.

Link to website: http://www.uri.edu/provost/planning/diversity.html

Last meeting of the semester: Tuesday, April 26, 3-4:30 PM, President’s conference room, Green Hall.