Division of Academic Affairs  
Diversity Task Force  
Tuesday, November 29, 2016  
3-4:30 PM  
Thomson Boardroom, Ballentine Hall  
Minutes

Present: Trish Morokoff, Peter Larsen, Kelly Matson, Fernando Guzman, Lynne Derbyshire, Nancy Doyle-Moss, Furong Xu, Alycia Austin, David Bidwell, Tiffani Kisler, Janie Palm, Dania Brandford Calvo, Diane Kern, Laura Beauvais

1. Minutes of the Meeting of October 18, 2016, were approved.

2. Announcements: Academic Summit will focus on diversity, inclusion, and global issues (Thursday, January 19, 2017); last speaker of the Honors Colloquium is tonight: Jelani Cobb — “What is to be done about inequality?”

3. Multicultural Faculty Fellowship Program
   a. The task force reviewed and made further revisions on the Request for Proposals (see attached draft).

4. Multicultural Enhancement Funds:
   a. Guests Eric Kaldor, Luckson Omoaregba, John Cruz presented ideas on ways to support underrepresented, first generation, and other students for academic success, particularly those with D, F, W grades. After the Black Lives Matters event, they thought reaching out to students to help faculty understand the issues they face in the classroom and on campus would be a viable way to assist students. Is there some way we could put together a group of students (i.e., students of color, first gen, others) to research ways of helping students in the first-year experience? Students would serve as consultants, get credit, and/or get support. Could this experience be done as part of a “learning community?” Luckson provided information about his project for his diversity course. What topics might be useful for students in providing a foundational experience for success in college? What are students experiencing in their first year that helps them in the years beyond college? Financial literacy? Intercultural competence? University of Southern Maine, Portland, may have a model to follow: Pass Program. John oversees URI’s Pass Program. The planning here is to be more proactive rather than waiting for students to fail.

   b. How can we assist? Next steps? Get a group of undergraduate students to work on the research on what would be needed. Perhaps get a cross
section of lower and upper level undergraduates, grad students, and others on campus to be resource persons.

c. Multicultural Student Nurse Association – have guest speakers and is a vibrant program.
d. Next step: getting some funding for students to do research next semester. International Office may be able to help assist in funding.
e. They will develop a short proposal for us to consider for funding using our Multicultural Enhancement Fund.

f. Update on Other Initiatives

a. Diversity seminar program for graduate students—slow progress. Schedule not confirmed, but still working on the foundational workshop. Professional development newsletter is going out to graduate students; we are now able to note the attainment of the certificate on the transcript.
b. Diversity training for faculty: debrief meeting of the October event will take place in a few weeks.
c. ACE Initiatives—Development of part time tenure track faculty terms—support guest speaker? Table until Barb Silvers can present at a meeting.

g. New Business--none

Link to website: [http://www.uri.edu/provost/planning/diversity.html](http://www.uri.edu/provost/planning/diversity.html)

Meetings—all held in President Conference Room in Green Hall:

- **Wednesday, February 1**, 3-4:30 PM
- **Tuesday, March 7**, 3-4:30 PM
- **Wednesday, April 5**, 3-4:30 PM
- **Tuesday, May 2**, 3-4:30 PM