Division of Academic Affairs
Diversity Task Force
Tuesday, September 29
3-4:30 PM
President’s Conference Room, Green Hall
Meeting Minutes

Present: Julia Lovett, Karen Wishner, Furong Xu, Nancy Doyle Moss, Tom Hospod, Kelly Matson, Barb Silver, Michelle Fontes Barros, Laura Beauvais, Janie Palm, Trish Morokoff, Jason Kolbe, Fernando Guzman, David Hayes.

1. Minutes of April 29, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Welcome to New Members

3. Announcements:
a. The Provost discussed the development of the new Academic Plan. At our next meeting we will review Goal 4 of the plan: “Dedication to Diversity and Inclusion.”
b. The STEM Diversity Institute that was held last Friday and David Hayes updated the task force on future activities of the Institute, including study circles.

4. Development of general education courses for the cultural competency outcome (see rubric):
   a. Laura handed out the current rubric for the cultural competency outcome.
   b. As a task force, we need to take the lead to develop new courses that meet this outcome
   c. Should we provide examples to faculty to guide them in course development?
   d. Perhaps an interdisciplinary approach will be successful. Faculty may not feel competent to teach this concept.
   e. Can we tap into Rhode Island cultural issues as basis for development of courses?
   f. Role the task force can play: can we brainstorm some topics/exercises in subject areas to give faculty help in coming up with ways to develop courses? Ask faculty experts for ideas here and we can compile.
   g. We can take “social” out of the rubric language and it may seem more inclusive of different disciplines.
   h. Michelle will talk to Josh Caulkins about gathering topical areas/examples; Barb will ask Engineering faculty for topical areas/examples. Josh can then follow up with members of the task force from different colleges to develop the best strategy. Eric Kaldor can meet with humanities and social science group.
   i. Wording of rubric needs refinement; some terms need to be defined. The task force can provide some definitional guidelines.
   k. A member of the task force could attend a gen ed meeting to provide input on wording changes, the provision of topical areas that could be addressed in courses,
examples of assignments, etc. to see if changes to the rubric can be made. Laura will bring to the Thursday Gen Ed Committee meeting to see if changes might be approved by the committee.

l. We need to do outreach on this rubric in particular.
m. Josh can do a presentation in the various colleges and departments to describe how their courses can be developed to include this learning outcome.
o. Laura will set up Google doc for task force to brainstorm topical areas, examples of assignments, etc.
p. Multicultural Enhancement Fund: we voted to use the money to give faculty $2500 each to develop gen ed courses in cultural competency.

5. Subcommittee Reports: The subcommittees will report at the next meeting on October 28.

- Diversity seminar program for graduate students. Members: Karen Wishner, Betsy Cooper, David Hayes, Annemarie Vaccaro, and Lynne Derbyshire.

- ACE Initiative Update Members: Naomi Thompson, Barb Silver, Furong Xu

- Diversity training for faculty. Members: Joan Peckham Naomi Thompson, Nancy Doyle-Moss, Lynne Derbyshire, Trish Morokoff, and Michelle Fontes Barros

- Use of Multicultural Enhancement Funds to support small grants for faculty to develop resources for inclusive teaching—Update. Members: Furong Xu, Diane Kern, Zahra Meghani.

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

Meeting schedule for 2015-2016 (all meetings will be in the President’s Conference Room, Green Hall)

Wednesday, October 28, 3-4:30 PM
Tuesday, November 24, 3-4:30 PM
Tuesday, December 15, 3-4:30 PM
Wednesday, January 27, 3-4:30 PM
Tuesday, February 23, 3-4:30 PM
Wednesday, March 30, 3-4:30 PM
Tuesday, April 26, 3-4:30 PM