

Diversity Committee Minutes: Feb. 9, 2017 [Quorum Achieved]

VOTING MEMBERS:	Department	
Astorga, Juan Carlos	Teamster Rep	Present
Bates, Maria	AFT, English, co-chair	Present
Lara Conady-Wong	Student Engagement Coordinator & Counselor / ASO Rep	Absent
Frederick, Loralyn	1521A, Staff Rep	Present
Habata, Michael	AFT, Library	Present
Jernigan, Shytovia T	Trades Rep	Absent
Pending Appointment	ASO Rep	Absent
Moran, Karen	Senate Rep	Present
Pierson, Brian	AFT Rep, Anthropology	Present
Valada, Christine	1521A, co-chair	Present
Van, Candy	Supervisor Rep	Absent
Velasco, Claudia	UMCE Rep	Present
Watson, Abby	Counseling Rep	Present

Guests:

Lisa Valdez	Library
Judy Bagg	English
Curt Duffy	English
Lori Travis	Speech

- Christine Valada moved to approve Minutes from our December 8, 2016 meeting. Brian Pierson seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.
- One Book-One Campus:** Lisa and Loralyn have been working together to host the "Hunting Ground" film on 3/9, Thursday, from 12-3 in the Great Hall. We will have three panelists, including Dr. Earic Peters, and crisis counselors.

We will also host a OCOB "Symphony Event" on June 1st from 6-8

- Newsletter:** Moriah, Judy, and Sally will be sending out a letter to announce our shift to a Fall newsletter. They will also gather information for the Fall edition.

Michael Habata will write about our new OCOB choice, Enrique's Journey.

4. **Sanctuary / Awareness Group:** Maria reported that our Academic Senate had passed a resolution to make Pierce a sanctuary campus; currently, there is legislation for California to also become a sanctuary.

Juan Carlos, Dennis Robb, Maria Bates, Christine Valada, and Fernando Oleos met with our Sheriff's department during the break; our sheriff's support the idea of sanctuary insofar as they will not hold someone on the basis of their immigration or religious status, nor will they ask about these statuses. They will also not aid ICE officials on campus. However, they are not allowed to prevent ICE officials from coming onto campus. They will issue a statement that outlines their policies for our students, staff, and faculty.

Sanctuary is also an underground movement in which churches and individuals are hosting those affected by detention and deportation issues.

Judy Bagg also mentioned that we should provide sanctuary or hospital statements in our syllabi. The PDC thought that this was an excellent idea.

5. **ESL and International Students:** Several PDC students were detained due to the new immigration band. Many already had work visas and a right to stay in the US, but had to return to Iran.

Three of our international students were also affected. One student finally made it through customs after an additional vetting, but due to a delay in his schedule, he was unable to register for the courses he needed at Pierce. Disheartened by both his treatment at customs and his inability to find a class at Pierce, he returned home. The PDC is trying to find ways to change our culture in order to make our college more hospitable to our immigrant students from the seven banned countries, and particularly our international students.

It is important to note that our international students have no priority to enroll, and it takes time for their visas to clear. By the time they arrive, the majority of our classes are full and they struggle to find a space. This anxiety has been compounded by their new adjustments to our culture and the current political rhetoric that is not hospitable to Muslim nationals.

To help solve this problem, we are asking interested faculty to join us in including our names on a list; this list would permit Abby Watson to contact us to see if placements can be made in our classroom prior to the class start date. Again, this is only voluntary list, but it would enable our international students to be treated hospitably on our campus and begin with a feeling of belonging rather than a feeling of disregard.

6. **BRAVE:** Juan Carlos reported that we will start BRAVE training in the summer and the committee has agreed to participate.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35.