

Pierce Diversity Committee
Zoom Conference
April 9, 2020 11:15am-12:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Sierra Bledsoe, Lara Conrady, Mary Anne Gavarra-Oh, Michael Gend, Casey Grigg, Michael Habata, Sally Kassamanian, Mario Macias, Jeremy Mason, Pauline Pham, Brian Pierson, Meagan Truxal, Lisa Valdez.

1. Call to Order - 11:20am

2. Check in: Everyone is okay and adjusting to working from home. We briefly talked about COVID discrimination toward Asian communities and wearing face masks.

3. Approval of Agenda:

- a. Mary Anne motioned for approval, Jeremy seconded
- b. Unanimous Approval

4. Approval of March 12 Minutes:

- a. Jeremy motioned for approval, Meagan seconded
- b. Unanimous approval

5. Announcements and Upcoming Events:

- a. Mary Anne shared that the art gallery will be going virtual. There is usually an art show at the end of Spring semester. She will share more details as they are worked out. She will also check with Jill about the student photography exhibit.
- b. All live performing arts events have been canceled. The department is looking at ways to move events online and showcase student work. For example, the choir may create an edited video that is available to the public. As of now, they have not been able to get online rights for the plays they had been rehearsing for. Michael Gend will share any updates.
- c. One Book One Campus is currently doing a lot of passive activities. The Soloist will carry over to the next academic. The Soloist deals with a lot of relevant issues like mental health, food insecurity and homelessness. They have a Canvas page with all the information and links to various health services throughout LA. The film is still available for free streaming on the Library website. Lisa will create a short quiz so professors can use it for their classes.

6. Multicultural Day 2020:

- a. Michael Habata shared the responses from the faculty regarding the originally planned workshops. The consensus is that it will be too difficult to hold the workshops this semester and they would be more comfortable moving them to Fall 2020. The committee agreed.
- b. There is anecdotal desire amongst students to have some form of communal engagement outside of their online classes. We discussed various "events" that our committee could create that could help to meet this need. Some type of a larger forum outside of classes that allows students to discuss how they are doing. This could be related to mental health, art, a physical activity, student led discussions, forum moderated by different departments.
- c. We are not yet sure what the format and time frame will be (Canvas, Zoom, something else). This is an ongoing discussion for the next meeting. We did come up with various ideas.
- d. There were concerns amongst the group as to how it will be moderated. There will need to be some sort of oversight from a staff/faculty member, but we are unsure as to what that will look like. There are concerns about privacy and harassment if we were to have no staff/faculty oversight. We also discussed having some sort of waiver or disclosure or privacy statement. This will depend on the format we choose
- e. We discussed whether this event should be a singular event, over a period of time (like a week) or a weekly recurring thing. In general, we like the idea of having a recurring event so the students can have continual engagement.
- f. Sierra suggested we host weekly meetings covering different topics that would be of interest to students. We could possibly have a new question each week that the students could discuss. She thought Fridays would be a good day for this, as many students don't have class.
- g. Mary Anne informed us that the Enrollment Management Committee is working on a viral campaign to remind students that Pierce is here for them. They are working with different departments and groups on campus. Once we have an event, we could work with them to help promote it to the students.

- h. We discussed the various services that are already online and available to students
 - i. The counseling department is on Cranium Cafe to help students with academic and personal needs. There are appointments and live chat options available.
 - ii. The Health Center is also online to assist students with medical and mental health issues
 - iii. There is a Wellness Network Canvas shell that students have access to
- i. Certain faculty members are building time into their online classes to check in with their students, but students seem to want something that is outside of their immediate academic group/class setting - Something more campus wide that allows them to engage with more people.
- j. Lara suggested we limit whatever this event will be to 20 people less. Anything beyond that could become difficult to moderate.
- k. Overall we like the idea of the discussions being student led, while the moderator takes a backseat.
- l. We asked the faculty on the committee how they are presenting their classes. Within our group, faculty are doing a mix of both synchronous and asynchronous learning. It can be difficult for students to access synchronous lectures and difficult for faculty to moderate.
- m. Lara discussed what she is working on with ASO currently:
 - i. She is trying to get a similar event started (Motivation Mondays, Wellness Wednesday, Focus Fridays). She suggested we hold off on planning something separate. We can work with her and ASO to try Motivation Mondays out. We can expand upon the event if it works.
 - ii. Lara will discuss this with ASO next week.
- n. Originally planned Multicultural Day 2020:
 - i. If we move the event to Fall 2020, we will most likely need to have it online. The campus doesn't know yet if classes will be online, but we figure that social distancing will still be a big factor.
 - ii. Lara reminded us that we need to submit our budget request by April 17 if we want to have our event before November 1, 2020.

- iii. We decided to hold our online event with Cadence Valentine as a presenter on October 29, 2020. Michael Habata will contact Cadence to make sure she is willing to present on that day in an online format. If so, he will submit the budget request to Bruce Rosky for Cadence's speaking fee.
- iv. No other budget will be required because we do not plan to have an in person component at this time.
- v. We will need to further discuss how to advertise and draw student's into this event.
- vi. Michael Gend suggested we change the event to Multicultural Week and spread activities out over a period of time for students to partake in.
- vii. Will we present the speaker event to faculty so they can encourage their students to go? What is the buy in? IF we give faculty enough notice, they can plan our speaker event into their syllabus.
- viii. Lisa brought up the fact that students would probably benefit from something active. Sierra suggested calling it a workshop instead of a speaker event to help promote the idea of an activity as opposed to lecture.
- ix. There were questions as to how to submit the budget request to the Business Office. Right now the BO is accepting email signatures and submissions. Michael Habata will begin this process after he speaks to Cadence.
- x. Sierra suggested finding a way to promote the workshops with Halloween in effort to draw more students in.

7. Adjournment - 12:47pm