

Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2020
11:15 am – 12:30pm

Attendance: Sierra Bledsoe, Lara Conrady Wong, Mita Desai, Mary Anne Gavarra Oh, Michael Gend, Casey Grigg, Michael Habata, Sally Kassamanian, Mario Macias, Jeremy Mason, Pauline Pham, Brian Pierson, Meagan Truxal, Liza Valdez, Abby Watson,

1. Meeting called to order – 11:20

2. Committee Member Check in:

- a. Staff and faculty are feeling overwhelmed. There is a general concern for how students are doing and handling the stress of online learning and stay at home orders.
- b. We discussed all of the resources being sent out to students and whether students are using them. There is a concern that some students may be having an information and technology overload, and that they are no longer absorbing emails that are being sent out. As a college, we need to help students understand these resources will make things easier for them, as opposed to one more thing they have to do.
- c. We discussed the need for more student involvement in our conversations to really understand their needs, interests, and what they would like to participate in.
- d. Sierra informed us that many of her peers are feeling overwhelmed and don't know how to proceed with their education right now. They don't know whether they should transfer or stay at Pierce, or how they will complete majors that require labs and in person classes.
- e. We discussed the idea of having helpful, resource information being presented to students by students. As a student, Sierra felt that might make the students feel more engaged and be able to relate to the information. The students seemed really engaged for the Senator takeover event.
- f. Maybe students aren't using resources because they are is no physical presence. When you are on campus and you see something you need, it is easier to make the stop.
- g. Many students are having difficulty finding jobs/internships for the summer. Sierra would like to have some sort of workshop related to this. She will talk to Jeremy about planning.

3. May Agenda Approval:

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

4. April Minute Approval:

a. Jeremy motioned, Abby seconded. Unanimous approval.

5. **Announcements:**

a. One Book One Campus (OBOC):

- i. SEAPAC is reevaluating current proposals, OBOC is one program that might not be continued.
- ii. It is less of a budget issue, and more of whether or not it is effective in an online setting.
- iii. Lisa will be sending out the last opportunity for extra credit for Spring semester this week.
- iv. If OBOC is no longer supported, she may try to continue a scaled down version on her own.

b. ASO:

- i. Lara and Jeremy have been hosting virtual Motivation Monday every Monday from 12:00-1:00, and Focused Fridays every Friday from 12:00-1:00
- ii. Focused Fridays currently have less attendance, but they are working to build it up.
- iii. They would like to continue these programs into summer
- iv. Originally it was intended as a platform for students to talk to each other but has shifted more towards Lara and Jeremy advising students. The student feedback Lara has received has been positive. Students are thankful for the engagement and the opportunity to talk.
- v. In order to attend the meetings and receive updates, students need to request to be added to the Canvas shell. There has not been a mass student communication. Most of the participants are already involved in ASO.
- vi. If any students are interested, they can email Lara for more information.
- vii. We discussed what our committee can do to assist and/or expand these events:
 1. Lara suggested having a counselor as a co-moderator to help with the academic questions that come up. She also mentioned and that certain mental health issues can be spotted, so being present is extremely important.

6. **Multicultural Day:**

- a. Michael Habata submitted the budget request in April and is awaiting a response
- b. Michael has spoken with Cadence and she feels positive about an online presentation.
- c. Our next meeting is not until September and our event is scheduled for October 29. Will we need to meet over the summer to plan the logistics? If needed, certain members may

meet over the summer to work out details, however the logistics should be fairly straight forward.

- Because of the limited capacity of Zoom, we discussed recording the presentation and making it available to students who are not able to attend.
- Michael Gend informed the committee of Zoom Webinar. He has requested the district to purchase it so Performing Arts to use for online performances. If approved, we may be able to use it for our event.
- Michael Habata will email faculty to see if they would be interested in presenting an online version of their originally planned workshop.

Committee self-evaluation:

- 2019-2020 Goals:
 - Goal #1: Campus publication on diversity/faculty training. Publish at least one newsletter during the academic year on topics related to campus diversity and inclusion which will be distributed to the entire campus via email to employees.
 - Complete
 - Michael Habata will reach out to Maria Bates to see what she needs to continue the newsletter for Fall. He will check if there is a theme.
 - Goal #2: Student engagement events. Create or actively support workshops or sessions for students to promote awareness of cultural/social/gender differences among population at Pierce.
 - Complete
 - Goal #3 – Multicultural Day at Pierce College.
 - Postponed due to COVID-19 campus shut down. Event has been rescheduled to October 29.
- 2020-2021 Goals:
 - Create a calendar with culturally relevant events. The taskforce will be reinstated. Mario would like to be on the taskforce
 - Lara would like to assist with the creation of programming. It will make the partnering with ASO more streamlined.
 - September is Latino heritage month. Lara will reach out to students as to what kind of events they would be interested in and report back to the committee.
 - Mita will send us the communication of the calendar taskforce to update us on what work was done.
 - Mario has something similar for the library. He will email us his calendar.
 - Create a social Media page to increase student engagement and awareness.

- Sierra and Mario would like to help with this.
- Sierra suggested having students submit our logo design as our first social media promotion.
- Michael will send out a doodle poll to see if anyone is able to meet in June/July.

Meeting Adjourned – 12:35pm