

Minutes from the President's Equity Task Force Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 2020

Meeting started at 9 a.m.

In attendance: Co-Chairs Suzanne Waldenberger and Jerald Monahan; Dr. Diane Ryan, Rodney Jenkins; Bradi Rhodes; Charlotte Dunnigan; Gwendolyn Payne; Lisa Raygoza; Amber Davies-Sloan; Tania Sheldahl; Michael Ruddell; Thatcher Bohrman; Jennifer McCormack

Agenda Items covered:

Discussion occurred on several of the activities related to the goals of the TF. Mike is currently researching information that can be brought out as the campus considers the various awareness events throughout the year that we should be a part of. Jennifer will be working with Mike as this research continues.

Campus Safety Webpage has been updated with new photographs and messaging to emphasize the safety/student role in our mission.

Respect Campaign website updates will continue, Mike will be working with Thatcher on developing a calendar of events for the year and perhaps a periodic announcement related to significant people or events in the history of civil rights, with a goal of helping students understand that social change takes many individuals to act for good.

Bradi and Gwen provided an update on "NameCoach" and how this could provide a resource to assist with understanding the pronouns a student wishes to be used and how to correctly pronounce a student's name. The next step is to talk with Patrick in I. T. and if this continues to move forward, it will be a budget consideration for the 2021/2022 budget cycle. What already exists in CANVAS for faculty to know of a student's pronoun preference was also discussed.

The idea of focus groups was discussed and how and when they fit in or should occur. One thought was to tie them into the college's activities associated with awareness events. Mike mentioned he could also use his sociology class and offer extra credit, Jerald mentioned he could do the same with his AJS class. As questions come up that require input from various groups and individuals on campus, this issue will be revisited.

Related to this was a discussion about the student discussion group that Janice Soutee is currently overseeing. This group may serve as the kernel of a focus group should one become necessary. We also agreed that it would be great to meet with this group jointly at some point to hear what they are doing and thinking.

Sukey mentioned the Sept. 11th lunch for a meeting with staff and faculty of color to discuss with them issues of concern and how students of color can be supported. How we get the word out to our staff and faculty of color about this meeting was discussed. Please invite any colleague you think would be interested in joining. Information will be distributed during Convocation week.

J.J. mentioned a survey on YC inclusiveness that went out via Instagram. Only 37 responses were received, but most of those were very positive. Some were very negative. JJ will be following up with those respondents to gain more insight into their opinions.

Rodney had another meeting to attend prior to providing the update on the community breakfast idea, this will be added to the August 20th agenda.

Attendees of the meeting are invited to send updates on the projects listed in the agenda, if they would like to inform the rest of the committee on progress made.

Meeting ended at 10:05