

# DIVERSITY CAUCUS “MINUTES”

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

**In attendance:** Brenda Safford (Chair), Amy Beaudry, Byron Thomas, Henry Ritter, Deborah Gonzalez, Benjamin Wendorf, Gaelan Benway, Bryan Brophy-Baermann, Edward Reitz, Danaya Chandler, Adrienne Linnell, Selina Boria

Meeting was called to order at 2:07pm

## 1. Proposal Requests:

**Diversity Week** – April 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Ed Reitz and Danaya Chandler shared the breakdown of the week – Block Party on Tuesday with Bollywood performers, Rainbow Day on Wednesday, Panel Discussion on Thursday & Food Festival on Friday. The request for funding was in the amount of \$4000 to cover costs for speakers, performers and food. (Rainbow Day has already been funded at \$2500). Caucus members asked for a cost breakdown before funding the full request.

**Equity & Excellence** – Gaelan presented her proposal on behalf of the Equity & Excellence Street Team highlighting it will begin with a single event that coincides with Stand Against Racism, followed by a year-long series of activities. The full request is for \$2100, with \$700 needed for FY18 and the remainder in FY19.

*Upon a motion duly made, the funding in the amount of \$2100 was approved split over FY18 and 19 (\$700 in FY18).*

**A Fine Line** – Selina shared a proposal for a campus viewing of the film ‘A Fine Line’ along with a presentation by the filmmaker. The feature-length documentary, A Fine Line, tackles very timely topics of women's rights and gender equality in the workplace through the personal story of Valerie James, of Val's Restaurant, a single-mother, restaurateur on a mission to do what she loves while raising two kids.

The dates proposed for March were March 22/23 or 29/30. It was discussed these are not good days for Hospitality Students and the Caucus members think it best to consider this for the Fall semester in order to have strong participation. The amount for the event is \$595 which includes the screening, filmmaker speaking engagement & DVD. Selina will relay to Michael Beane and look for potential fall dates.

- 2. Sankofa Lecture Series.** Ben Wendorf shared information for the 2 spring lectures coming up. The first is March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm in the Auditorium by Dr. Charmane Perry about the Haitian Immigrant Population. The second speaker is tentatively scheduled

for April 6<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Daniel McClure, a Black Studies Professor from the Wheeler School. He will be discussing the inclusion of black studies in the K-12 system.

**3. Stand Against Racism**

The group agreed to continue with ordering the banner, bracelets and bookmarks like in the past to distribute on campus the week of SAR. Conversation about the format of the day, use of time for the Equity & Excellence Presentation, pizza etc. will still be discussed.

**4. Update on Décor of the room**

Brenda shared the idea of the book cover wall and asked people to send ideas for book covers they would like to see included on the wall, “Diversity Covers All”. Frame holders will be ordered for the display.

**5. Diversity Committee**

Byron shared the plan to create a committee, under the direction of the President, which will be lead by himself and Brenda. This group will be separate from the Caucus and Council and will be designed to address diverse issues on campus and allow for more continuity of efforts around campus conversations, hiring, issues, employee retention, etc. This group will meet weekly and work in place of having 1 Chief Diversity Officer. They are seeking volunteers to serve on this Committee. He noted there is a model for this type of committee which they are looking into from the University of Kansas.

**6. Remaining Spring Meeting Dates:**

Tuesdays – 3/27/18 and 4/24/18 ~ 2 to 3pm – HLC101

**Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm**