

DIVERSITY CAUCUS MEETING NOTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

In attendance: Brenda Safford (Co-Chair), Selina Boria (Co-Chair), Amy Beaudry, Byron Thomas, Deborah Gonzalez, Benjamin Wendorf, Gaelan Benway, Bryan Brophy-Baermann, James Brennan, Liz Woods, Nancy Berthiaume, Henry Ritter, Adrienne Linnell

Meeting was called to order at 2:10pm

Upon a motion duly made, the minutes of the 9/25/18 meeting approved.

I Stand with Immigrants Event – Selina shared the schedule and details about the event. Event is taking place 10/24/18 at 12:00pm in the Hebert Auditorium. Food, t-shirts, stickers and presentations.

Sankofa Lecture Event – Ben Wendorf gave an overview of the first event held on 10/19, noting about 50 people in attendance. Good kick-off for the year. Dr. Chad Williams will be presenting this Friday, 10/26 at 1pm. Topic – W.B. Dubois and African Americans during World War I.

Upon a motion duly made, the group approved the spending of \$4000 for all four Sankofa Lectures for the 18-19 school year.

Advancing Inclusion books by Dr. Deborah Plummer – Books were purchased for Caucus members who want to work with the Diversity Dialogue/Brave Space sessions and the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee members.

Upon a motion duly made, the group approved to reimburse Nancy Donohue Berthiaume for the purchase of the Advancing Inclusion books.

Display Case – Selina shared the list of historical heritage months. November is Native American Heritage month and looking for ideas, and resources. Nancy mentioned a group in Grafton for Native American information, who also host pow wows. Selina will reach out. The Fruitlands has a display on Native American artifacts (Harvard, MA). Worcester women intertribal indian center – check website. They are a music, drumming singing group. Idea shared to try and schedule an impromptu drumming circle as an event. Larry Mann – local Nipmuc.

February – Brenda requested to display a collection called All God's Children. Could use 2 shelves with a narrative. Lifelike figurines.

Opportunities for Black History Month – Brenda shared her involvement in a play that she would like to bring to the College. Catholic Workers reached out to Brenda to participate. Use Auditorium space. In the past, this group has performed at an evening event around 6pm. Brenda will check with dates. Suggested to have a snow date.

Gaelan presented an idea of giving an honorarium or donation to a group such as, Catholic Workers. The group discussed funding and would like to consider it in February if

funds are available. Also the idea of participating in the Catholic Workers Bread sale was shared.

Additionally, Charles Ketter, student, jazz musician – bring a history music presentation for February. Auditorium vs HLC was discussed. Brenda will inquire.

Brenda, Byron and Selina will attend the **Faculty Senate** meeting on Thursday, 10/25 to introduce the Brave Space/Diversity Dialogue sessions for students.

It was suggested to connect with Kim Cummings about deaf awareness month for ideas for the display case.

Update – student peer advocates for **domestic violence training** is off and running. Students participating in 4 Saturdays in November. Mix of male and female.

Equity and Excellence Experience Showcase event is scheduled for December 10th. Gaelan gave a brief update on the lunch event with food, demonstrations of work and projects, multiple media projects, etc.. Will be assessment around the work. May present at an All College Forum and Tech Conference.

UTEC update from Gaelan – may have to consider 4pm timeslot to accommodate presenters for a Diversity Fare. Scheduling and room availability have been a challenge.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm