

# DIVERSITY CAUCUS “MINUTES”

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018

**In attendance:** Brenda Safford (Chair), Amy Beaudry, Byron Thomas, Deborah Gonzalez, Stephanie Teixeira, Benjamin Wendorf, Gaelan Benway, Bryan Brophy-Baermann, Edward Reitz, Anne Shull, Nichole Wheeler, Laura Tino, Kristy Glover, Selina Boria

Meeting was called to order at 2:05pm

**1. Meeting notes of the February 20, 2018 meeting were approved.**

**2. Proposal Requests:**

**Diversity Week** – Brenda gave kudos to the students for adjusting their funding request for Diversity Week and reducing the request to \$2150 from \$4000. This was approved via email from Caucus members.

**3. Sankofa Lecture Series.** Brenda noted the great job Dr. Charmane Perry did at the last Sankofa Lecture series and her presentation on Haitian Immigration and the Bahamas.

Ben Wendorf gave an overview of the next Sankofa Lecture – Half-Century Retrospective of Black Studies at the Collegiate level and incorporation into K-12. Reassessment of where we are today and how are we doing? Ben shared the flyer with the group.

**4. Stand Against Racism**

The group discussed the timeframe of 11:00am to 2:00pm. Selina inquired with Linda Cavaioli from the YWCA about their speaker and she shared it is Carmen Perez, Executive Director of The Gathering for Justice – a nonprofit founded by legendary artist and activity Harry Belafonte. Selina reached out to Carmen’s organization to find out if she would even be available to come to QCC after her morning presentation at the YWCA. They said she would and inquired about honorarium. The Caucus agreed to offer \$1000 plus accommodations if needed for Friday. Selina will reach back out with this offer.

As far as timeline, the group discussed having Carmen, if available, from either 11am to 12:00pm or 12:00pm to 1:00pm and we will adjust our timeframe as needed. There will be pizza served as we have done in the past and t-shirts, bracelets and banner signing.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, 1pm to 2pm, the group discussed having a student panel on activism, plus possibly alumni, PTK Student leaders, refugees and community activists. Student leaders who advocate for any cause, whether for legislation about education to refugees to any social justice issue will be invited to participate. Several names were suggested among the group, including Student Trustee, Stephanie Teixeira.

## 5. Diversity Committee

It was noted that Kristy Glover will be the new VP for the Faculty Senate and Byron Thomas is running for President of the FS.

Brenda shared that along with Byron, they are working to create the Diversity Committee/Advisory Group which they presented at the last Caucus meeting. She emailed the report from the University of Kansas to all Caucus members to read and be prepared to discuss at next week's meeting. 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Olga Lopez Hill Scholarship** – Dèborah González reminded the group about the \$600 scholarship which requires a written statement by the students showing how they feel that their activities and future goals reflect the importance of education, diversity and service to their community. Deborah noted the deadline is April 4<sup>th</sup>. A reminder will go out to the campus.
2. **Diversity Week Update** – Ed Reitz requested **ethnic food items** for the festival on Friday, 4/20 from 12 to 2. Email Ed or Paige Walton at [pwalton@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:pwalton@qcc.mass.edu) if interested in volunteering to donate a food item. Ed also noted the planning committee is looking for presenters to sit on a **Diversity Panel** taking place on 4/19 from 11 to 1 in the Fuller Student Center – email him if interested in sharing a diversity story or sitting on the panel – [ereitz@gmail.com](mailto:ereitz@gmail.com). The **Pride Alliance Panel** will take place on Wed. 4/18 – time and location to be determined. It is a coming out panel and folks on the panel with address any questions and what it was like to come out for the first time.
3. **Policing in a Multicultural Society** – Kristy Glover shared the Criminal Justice club is presenting a session on this topic with local law enforcement officers. It will take place on Wed., 4/4 from 2 to 3:30pm in the Hebert Auditorium.
4. **Book Covers for HLC101** – The groups gathered the name of more book cover ideas for the 'Diversity Covers All' wall. Some suggested titles have been emailed to Selina. Titles gathered at the meeting included: When I was Puerto Rican, Beloved (Toni Morrison), Homegoing, Things Fall Apart, Their Eyes Were Watching God, I am Jazz, Just Mercy, House on Mango Street, Reading Lolita in Tehran, The Bread Winner, Special People, Special Ways, Ten Thousand Dresses, Personal Justice Denied, and The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. The hope is to still have them up by April 13<sup>th</sup> for Inauguration.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm**