

DIVERSITY CAUCUS MEETING NOTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

In attendance: Brenda Safford (Co-Chair), Selina Boria (Co-Chair), Amy Beaudry, Byron Thomas, Deborah Gonzalez, Benjamin Wendorf, Gaelan Benway, Bryan Brophy-Baermann, Mike Beane, Jim Brennan, Teresa Varriale Gonzalez

Meeting was called to order at 2:05pm

1. Brave Space/Diversity Dialogue Sessions

- a. The Group discussed the students desire to have a space for conversations. The importance of training for faculty and staff as facilitators was discussed. Two dates were proposed for the first 2 inaugural sessions – October 12th and November 14th and Brenda noted her and Byron are available to facilitate these first sessions with Nancy and Selina if available. Gaelan suggested including the Dean of Students or other entity when discussing a crisis situation.
- b. **Flyer** – a flyer needs to be created to convey the message clearly to students inviting them to participate. A ‘Brave Space’ may not be clear and would need to be defined. Amy noted feedback from students about the flyer is important – what would make sense, what’s appealing, is language clear? Highlight importance of respect, listening, diplomacy etc. Nancy noted the book “Brave Spaces” is in the library.
- c. **Rules of Engagement** – a Poster or Postcard for rules of engagement during each session need to be established. Brenda offered to invite Mable Milner from Holy Cross to discuss how “Diversity Conversations” take place there? Best Practices? Important to have a ‘play book’, guidelines
- d. **Delay First session** – due to needing more time to prepare, the group agreed to use October 12th as a dress rehearsal/dry run. Will have guidelines and practices to follow and possibly Ms. Milner to campus to present prior to October 12th. November 14th will be the first session with students. Selina will work on a draft invitation to share with the Caucus before sending out and find a 2nd date for the fall semester from Mike Beane (*Note – post meeting, Mike suggested Monday, December 3rd*).

2. Diversity Fares:

Selina requested suggestions and ideas for any Diversity Fares for this semester. Gaelan is working with UTEC to find a date to come present and hold a panel. Funding was approved in the spring for this event.

3. **Display Case:** Selina is looking for ideas and suggestions for the new display case outside the SJCC. Want to display items in line with the themes on the digital display and each Heritage Month. Deborah suggested a list of each month and its’ associated

Heritage highlight and she suggested reaching out to local organizations or the Historical Society to see if they have displays to share. Selina will supply monthly calendar at next meeting.

4. Funding Request

Dean of Compliance, Liz Woods submit a proposal to provide training for 20 Domestic Violence Awareness Advocates (10 each semester) – students from healthcare, CJ, HS and Psychology to start. Liz requested the Caucus approve \$1000 to support the funding with the remaining funds coming from her Compliance budget. Trainees will receive certification at the YWCA and work as advocates on the QCC campus, once trained.

Upon a motion duly made, the Caucus approved the amount of \$1000 for the Domestic Violence Awareness Advocacy Training.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Community Learning Hubs** – Dèborah González distributed flyers and shared information about the newly opened Community Learning Hubs for QCC Students.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10pm