

Notes from 5/14/2013 meeting of Diversity Council

(Notetaker: Gaelan Lee Benway)

In attendance: Ricardo Catón (chair), Gaelan Benway, Anita Bowden, Margaret Wong, Henry Ritter, Meredith Weiss, Maria Addison

Topic 1 (Attendance): After calling the meeting to order Ricardo brought up the issue of council meeting attendance as a challenge to be met. Especially for those in certain employment roles, the duties of their positions might supersede attendance at a meeting of a standing governance committee. This is completely understandable. Circumstances where a Council member's absence might be the result of a supervisor's reluctance to permit the member's attendance, while not an express issue in Governance, were raised as a potential issue of diversity in terms of representation of all College constituencies. The discussion concluded with an agreement that questions of attendance and representation do not as yet constitute a policy need, but that the Diversity Council might recommend to the Governance Steering Committee that candidates for Council position discuss their availability with colleagues who might be impacted by their participation. Nomination documents and other descriptions might reflect the following statement: "In order to meet QCC's goal of including diverse voices in shared governance, all members of the various councils should expect support within their work areas and should intend to attend their respective council meetings."

Topic 2 (Meetings): Some in attendance expressed regret that Diversity Council meetings take place during Learning Council meetings, thus preventing attendance at Learning Council by interested members of the Diversity Council. Attempts may be made in AY 2013-14 to amend the meeting time.

Conversation moved to discussion of student membership and how to publicize the benefits to students of participation in Governance. Discussion included reaching out to classes that meet on TR before Governance meetings, offering Service Learning credit for participation, listing Council membership on transcripts, or offering course credit. Including current or former student members in recruitment efforts was noted as a potentially successful strategy.

Meeting dates for Fall 2013 are proposed as follows:

9/10

10/8

11/12

12/10