Diversity Committee Minutes

September 14, 2011

Present: Kristin Johnsen-Neshati, Maria Karametou, Matt Nolan, Greg Robinson, Ben Steger.

What can we provide to CVPA?

Our discussion is ongoing. We'd like to find out more about the ethnic and racial minority backgrounds represented within CVPA. There's a strong immigrant/binational/bicultural community. Faculty, staff and students are included in this community. CAPS is not available to faculty, so there's nowhere for faculty to turn for counseling. Support for curricular and programmatic issues. Maybe invite CAPS rep to one of our meetings?

We should consider physically challenged people. People with Learning Disabilities.

Set a meeting for the fall semester

Goal: 2 more meetings in the fall semester.

Interest Areas (each faculty member will research connection possibilities between designated university resources and CVPA community):

Ben Steger: NAIA--Native American and Indigenous Alliance

Greg Robinson: International Students
University Life
Office of Diversity Programs and Services
Center for Global Studies

Kristin Johnsen-Neshati: Religious Diversity and Learning Disabilities. She'll connect with the Campus Ministry Association and the Student Disabilities Resource Center.

Matt Nolan: Diversity within Given Professional Fields and Curricula
Gender-related diversity issues
Interdisciplinary arts

We want to invite some of the student groups who are aligned with our goals to attend a meeting.
“Let them do all the talking.”
Who are our constituents? CVPA students, faculty and staff. “What do our constituents say about diversity?”

Project: Send out a blind survey to CVPA students, faculty and staff asking questions like:

- What does “diversity” mean to you?
- How effectively does CVPA promote diversity? Examples?
- What could CVPA’s Diversity Committee do to help the College promote diversity?

Matt Nolan volunteered to design survey using Survey Monkey and send it out. Send Matt your suggestions, and he'll send out a draft for us to review.

Additional areas where we need faculty to research campus resources:

- LGBTQ community
- Racial and ethnic diversity
- Linguistic diversity
- Other ideas?

TO BE DONE:

- Kristin to follow up with Lynne Constantine re: developments in University’s LGBTQ Committee.
- Kristin will forward last spring’s documents to everyone, since we have some new members.
- Kristin to set Spring 2012 meetings. Alternate days to accommodate schedules?
- Create survey. Everyone send questions to Matt Nolan (mnolan4@gmu.edu).
- Do research on existing resources on campus. Bring findings to next meeting.