

## **Multicultural Student Center Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

1:30 p.m., Bolton 196

### Meeting Summary

Present: Michael Powell, Linda Huang, Susan Fields, Carla Cadet, Victoria Pryor, Diane Amour, Jaelei Yang, Edwin Maldonado, Carmen Cepeda, Alice Jackson, Dao Vang, Epiphany Outlaw, Kiera Castle

#### Climate Survey Update - Michael

Sue Rankin will be on campus on November 3, 2008 to report on results of the campus climate survey. The survey was conducted in late spring 2008. Her visit will include a town hall meeting to discuss how the data can be utilized. It is anticipated that data from the survey will be utilized to realign university services, and develop new programs and initiatives. Diversity Leadership Council will be reconvened.

The response rate for the survey was “abysmal” – at about 9% from UWM students. Response rate from faculty/staff was good – at about 30-33%. Perhaps a great majority of students don’t read their UWM emails. Strategies on how to get students to read UWM emails were discussed.

#### Perspective Student Overnight Program - Michael

This new program will be held on November 5-6, 2008. It will be similar to the overnight program that was implemented for admitted students in April 2008. Upper class high school students will be identified for this program. It will provide an opportunity for these students to interact with UWM faculty, staff, and students. Student mentors/hosts are needed.

The program will coincide with the film showing of “Trouble the Water” on New Orleans/Katrina flooding and evacuation (November 5 at 7 p.m. in Union Theatre).

Susan suggested that, in the future, the November program could coincide with UWM Open House in order to showcase the whole university. A brief discussion ensued.

Although the number was small, the U@UWM program was a success with 90+% of its participants attending UWM this semester. A reception was held for these students this past Monday. Next year’s program will be expanded. And most major universities have these types of programs to intentionally focus on increasing diversity on campus.

It was also suggested that Yohlunda be invited to the next MSCC meeting to talk about multicultural recruitment.

### Experience Diversity - Victoria

The event will be held on September 17 from 11 to 1:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom and Multicultural Student Lounge. There are 33 tables available, and 26 programs/organizations have confirmed their participation. There will be a welcome program at 12 noon.

Food will be ordered for 250 people and will be stationed around the room, with desserts available in the Lounge. Three offices will offer arts and crafts. Carla shared a copy of the Diversity Bingo (drawings for prizes will be conducted every half an hour). Kiera will be responsible for the music, and Linda is working on the PowerPoint. So far, only one performance (American Indian) has been confirmed. Approximately nine administrators (some are sending representatives) have sent in RSVPs to attend the event.

### What's LINKS Forum – Kiera

The forum will be held tomorrow from 12 to 3 p.m. in the Multicultural Student Lounge. There are two sessions (one at 12 noon and one at 2 p.m.):

- |           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 12-1 p.m. | Formal introduction of LINKS |
| 1-2 p.m.  | Open conversation            |
| 2-3 p.m.  | Future goals and functions   |

Come learn what LINKS is all about.

### Multicultural Student Coalition (MCSC) – Jaelei, Epiphany

First meeting of all organizations was held and the turnout was good. There were about 20 people or about 10 organizations at the meeting. Concerns about working together were expressed.

MCSC's first event will be the Town Hall Meeting focusing on the upcoming presidential election on October 21 at 6 p.m. in Union Wisconsin Room. College Democrats and College Republicans will present issues and answer questions. Sponsors are needed. MCSC will also table in the Union to distribute information.

Other plans include a big calendar of events and a newsletter. University is working on an events calendar, which will include all events on campus.

### Union Sociocultural Programming – Carla

Fall 2008 sociocultural calendars were distributed. A request for spring events will be sent to everyone in late October for the next calendar. With help from Alice, the office is looking at its mission and programs, which included a lot of collaborations with various departments on campus. It is anticipated that a lingo and a logo will be identified for marketing purposes.

The Woodson Week will occur again in April 2009. Suggestions for keynote speakers are needed.

The Social Justice Retreat has been moved from November, 2008 to March 6-8, 2009. There is a possibility that an ACLU staff can facilitate the retreat.

#### Orientation Task Force Update – Linda

Ericca Rolland is in charge of revamping the transitional experience of new freshmen, which includes programs for admitted students during the summer through their first year at UWM. Learning outcomes developed by the task force were shared.

Michael mentioned that a more robust orientation program is needed. Right now, there are only two mandatory sessions. One on diversity is needed.

Susan suggested that the orientation and registration should be separate sessions because each component is too long. Mandatory orientation (without registration) should perhaps occur a week before school starts to “pump” up students and get them connected. Housing needs to be provided for out-of-town students. She volunteered to serve on the task force.

#### AMSLC Update – Linda

Thus far, there are a total of 13 students and two staff (Ramona and Linda) who had registered for the conference. It is still anticipated that CEAS will send some students to the conference since its costs were included in a proposal. If students are still interested, please have them register online.

#### Unit Report

Diane:

- There is a “Journeys: Spirited Landscapes” art show from September 18 through October 11 at the Union Art Gallery. It features the artwork of UWM Anthropology Professor Bernard C. Perley.
- The movie, “The Exiles” will be shown on September 19, 20, and 21 in the Union Theatre.
- AISS is having a Native American craft and bake sale in the Union on September 25 to raise money for the October 18<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Autumn Pow-Wow (12 noon to 11 p.m. with grand entries at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.). Historically, university has not contributed money toward this event.

Edwin:

- Hispanic Heritage Month starts next week from September 15 through October 15. Brochures will be distributed soon. RHC has lost two staff members who were involved in the planning of cultural activities.
- The biggest event will be held on October 6 with a keynote from Junot Diaz. Approximately 200 attendees are expected. Milwaukee Press Club is co-sponsoring. The month will end with a salsa competition on October 11.
- LSU is reorganizing – there is no office or money yet. Its president is Veronica Sotelo.

Dao:

- Welcome back event for HSA and ASU will be held on Friday, September 26 at the Lake Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Dr. Chia Youyee Vang will speak on “Asian Americans and the ‘Model Minority’ Myth” on October 14 at 12 noon in the Multicultural Student Lounge (on MSC’s fall workshop calendar).

Linda/Victoria:

- Guaranteed 4.0 will be held on September 26 at 9 to 5 p.m. in Lubar BUS N140. Pre-registration is required.
- Faces of America will be held on October 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Union Wisconsin Room.