

Multicultural Student Center Committee Meeting

November 12, 2008

1:30 p.m., Bolton 196

Present: Tylesha Younger, Michael Powell, Carmen Cepeda, Victoria Pryor, Alice Jackson, Ramona Sledge, Linda Huang, Diane Amour, Carla Cadet, Dao Vang, Jaelei Yang, Yohlunda Hill, Ruth Russell, Tom Buchhuber (guest)

Climate Survey – Michael Powell

Sue Rankin presented a lot of information that we already know. The climate survey reported that 76% of faculty/staff felt satisfied, but this also meant that 24% were not satisfied. Students reported a satisfaction rate of 80%.

The low percentage response rate of 5% from students does not allow us to generalize on the student population, and this may be problematic in the future.

What happens next? Final climate survey results will be posted on the web in the near future. There will be a prioritized list of 3-5 recommendations, and opportunities will be identified for campus dialogue.

Some of the meeting discussions suggested training for managers and supervisors since classified staff generally felt unappreciated. It was also suggested that the survey results not be forgotten and shelved.

Discover UWM – Yohlunda Hill

The program was successful and the participants had a good experience. Sixty-six students registered for the program, and 25 showed up. Most of the no-shows were from TRIO and Pre-College Programs.

This program was tweaked from the U @ UWM program. The speed meet component (on resources) was good, with groups of four students rotating among seven tables. There were more than enough mentors. Of the participants, 19 were seniors and six were juniors. All 19 seniors have not applied to UWM so they will be followed up in the near future.

The next U @ UWM program will be held on April 8-9, 2009 in conjunction with the Woodson Week. New for that program is the opportunity for students to meet with their respective school/college representatives.

Other events/information:

- The Counselor's Breakfast will target small choice schools and churches and will be more multicultural focused.
- Application workshops in schools, such as Riverside and Pulaski, have scheduled dates in the near future. If anyone knows of schools that are interested in such workshops, please let Yohlunda Hill know.

- All MSO (Multicultural Recruitment Office) goals for the semester have been met.
- Students of color applications for fall 2009, as of this past Monday, was 682, an increase of over 8% from last year's number (630). Overall, new freshman applications were down thus far.

Multicultural Orientation Program – Michael Powell

In the process of restructuring and adding programs for new freshmen before school starts, it would be nice to implement a multicultural orientation program (e.g., incorporating University 101) to facilitate transition from high school to college. A working group was created to plan such an event. Members are: Alice Jackson, Yohlunda Hill, Dao Vang, Diane Amour, and Carmen Cepeda.

Diversity issues should be infused into the orientation program and freshman seminars. It was suggested that the Theatre of the Oppressed can be part of these activities.

Yohlunda Hill mentioned that:

- DRO's MSO is currently engaged in the Project Connect – contacting prospective students of color in the seven-region area.
- Panther Promise has been finalized to guarantee admission for selected precollege students who meet certain criteria. Application fee waiver is included in this "promise."
- Priority housing contracts are being mailed out now.
- There is a more concerted effort to get precollege students to attend UWM.

UW System Diversity Award – Linda Huang

The internal award submission deadline to Michael Powell is October 17. The deadline for campus submission is October 21. Each campus can submit up to three awards, one in each category: individual, team, and institution/unit. Please consider nominating yourself/team/unit or others for this award.

Announcements

Diane Amour – The Autumn Pow Wow honored community. Students raised money, including supporting five students to attend the National Indian Education Association Conference in October. Next year's NIEA conference will be hosted by UWM.

Career Development Center Projects – Tom Buchhuber

CDC is doing a lot in the classrooms and curriculum, e.g., English 205, Business Writing, JMC capstone class, Ed Psych 101, etc. Through a proposal funded by the Access to Success, CDC would like to train multicultural (and other) advisors with career development skills. This is not intended for advisors to become career counselors, but for them to be able to help students with basic career information. The first year of the project will be spent on developing tools for advisors. The pilot training will begin in May 2009, with a larger program slated for fall 2009.

At the invitation of Direct Supply, a Milwaukee-based company that wants to further diversify its workforce, CDC, in collaboration with MSC, has submitted a proposal for the company to hire 5-10 students of color in internship and permanent positions. The proposal includes the recruitment of 25-30 students of color to attend a series of career preparation seminars, conducted by CDC staff. The goal of these seminars is to prepare project students for eventual interviews with Direct Supply. As a result, 5-10 students will be hired by the company. This is a win-win situation for all parties involved.

Next step includes a possible meeting with Wade Krogwald, Director of University Relations and Recruitment at Direct Supply and/or a trip to Direct Supply. A working group will be created to provide feedback and help implement both projects.