

Multicultural Student Center Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

2:30 p.m., Bolton 196

Present: Michael Powell, Nicole Morales, Linda Huang, Ramona Sledge, Edwin Maldonado, Diane Amour, Alice Jackson, Nicole Stroobants, Susan Fields, Victoria Pryor, Dao Vang, Ruth Russell, Yohlunda Hill.

Greetings/Introductions

Associate Vice Chancellor Michael Powell chaired the meeting. He has been on campus for six weeks and has met everyone around the table. He mentioned that creating diversity means creating energy, and using that energy in a positive way.

There are two philosophies he believes in: "Traditional method will get traditional results," and "Insanity is doing the same things over and over again, and expecting to get different results." To get different results, one must think outside the box and do things drastically different. Two responses that do not sit well with him are: "We've always done it this way," and "We tried it once and it doesn't work." He said that diversity is an intentional process.

Michael plans to identify top three to four priorities from a current list of 17. They may include:

- Looking at enrollment management approaches. Chancellor is very clear about meeting the 20% goal for new freshmen of color.
- Increasing underrepresented faculty and students. These increases build on each other and do not happen in a vacuum. Holistic and comprehensive approaches must be utilized. Some strategies include building relationships with doctoral students and departments so students can be recruited into tenure-track positions.
- Looking at search and screen processes. More conversations with search and screen committees must occur earlier in the process about their charges.
- Improving campus climate. UWM is participating in the UW System climate study. Everyone must candidly express their experiences on campus for the study to be effective. Sue Rankins will be on campus on October 8 to meet with various groups.

Michael also hopes to look at the complaint reporting mechanism as this is the area he is interested in. Classroom climate is another issue that needs to be dealt with.

Brief Updates

- **Enrollment Plans:** Michael stated that UWM needs to be more proactive and provide programs to targeted students who are admitted to the university, e.g., an overnight experience/program for admitted students of color, identifying high achievers of color before their senior year, etc.
- **New Diversity Scholarships:** To make UWM competitive, Yohlunda reported that there will be four \$20,000 renewable scholarship packages for new freshmen of color, and 20 additional scholarships will be awarded at various levels. The money that was allocated

to Chancellor's Awards, along with other funds, will be used for these scholarships. It is important to identify strong candidates for these scholarships.

- **Master Planning:** Michael reported that the Master Planning groups (to develop regional campuses) met last Friday. Consultants will be on campus in January/February to provide a framework of guidance and address academic needs of this campus. The groups will meet on a monthly basis until February, 2008.
- **UW System Climate Study:** Michael mentioned that it's critically important for everyone to participate as data collected will inform policies. Fact-finding group sessions held last Thursday and Friday and meetings on October 8 will inform the development of specific questions for UWM.

UW System Race/Ethnicity Coding Changes

Susan raised the question on how to serve multiracial students, in light of the new freshmen application form where students are able to check multiple race/ethnic categories. Since some of the multicultural offices are already sending letters to new applicants, will these students be getting multiple mailings and information from multiple multicultural offices?

Multicultural Affairs Council (MAC)

Michael inquired about the utility of MAC since it has been suggested that the group be reconvened. Some felt that MAC was a good springboard for multicultural voices and was also a vehicle to deal with issues, others felt that it was mostly an information sharing group. Everyone agreed that the new MAC, if it's reconvened, should function as a venue for discussion on diversity-related issues. Throughout the 20+ years that MAC had existed, it had gone through many changes in function and format.

Everyone agreed that the purposes of Council on Inclusion and MAC are different. Recently, the Council's discussion has focused on Access to Success.

MSC Updates

- **Multicultural Student Resource Room:** Linda mentioned that the Resource Room (in Bolton 184) has run very smoothly since it opened a couple of weeks ago. Students love the facility. The only problem MSC has encountered thus far is eating in the room. To resolve that problem, Brandi has plastered the room with no-food signs.
- **Textbook Loan Program:** This is a new MSC program. Linda noted that by the 4th week of semester, some students still don't have any of their books. It was suggested that an email be sent to multicultural staff regarding what books are available in the program. It was also suggested that MSC may want to request for professor copies, buy books from students, and/or ask students to donate their books.
- **AMSLC:** The conference will be held on October 26-28 at Lake Lawn Resort, hosted by UW-Whitewater. Edwin, Ramona, and Linda are chaperons at the conference. Of the student attendees, nine are presenting at the conference.

- **Myriad:** Victoria passed around a copy of the *Myriad* cover and mentioned that it is in the editing stage. It will be ready for distribution by the end of October or early November.

Unit/Center Reports

Nicole – There is a Sexpo event tonight at 6-9 p.m. Mark Denning is the facilitator.

Dao – Next Monday is the Southeast Asian Youth Education and Career Conference at Marquette University.

Alice – Co-sponsored with Roberto Hernandez Center, Julie Chavez Rodriguez will present a lecture on Wednesday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Union Ballroom. Also, in a couple of weeks, a vacancy for Sociocultural Manger will be posted. This person will attend MSC Committee meetings.

Ruth – AOC is working on a newsletter. It had a banner year for enrollment during the summer.

Edwin – RHC is half way through the Hispanic Heritage Month activities. There were 120 people at the Maria Echaveste event.