

Multicultural Student Center Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 7, 2008
Chapman Regents Room, 1:30 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Celeste Clark, Michael Powell, Loretta Williams, Linda Huang, Carmen Cepeda, Victoria Pryor, Yohlunda Hill, Ramona Sledge, Chong Yang, Susan Fields

Sharing Our Experiences Survey

Michael mentioned that we are in the third week of implementation and participation rate is extremely low. We need more students to complete the survey. Some of the complaints/problems regarding the survey are:

- It's too long, but everyone felt it's important to provide feedback.
- Survey cannot be saved so it has to be completed in one setting, or it will be lost.
- It's not a great time of year to administer the survey – end of semester.
- Students are suffering from survey-fatigue.
- Students are skeptical about diversity and what the survey will accomplish.

Michael asked everyone to make a concerted effort to encourage students to complete the survey. It will identify problem areas and allocate resources. UWM's response rate is about 9%, whereas other campuses have a response rate of more than 25%.

Susan stated that many of our students don't do surveys. For example, she received only one response for an advising survey that has only five questions.

It was suggested that the administration of survey would be more effective if it is "attached" to the senior or other existing surveys, a part of the "registration" process, and/or filled out at food events. Deadline has been extended to May 16.

African American Cultural Center (AACC)

The first meeting of AACC is tomorrow to talk about the possibility and rationale for the creation of such a center. Hopefully, it will be a good addition to campus resources.

Multicultural Student Leadership Luncheon

The luncheon will be held this Thursday at 12 noon to talk about issues on campus. Michael stated that he would like to hold this event on a monthly basis.

Multicultural Student Umbrella Organization and Greek Life Organization

Chong proposed the creation of a multicultural student organization that will form a coalition between the multicultural and Greek organizations. She said that UW-Madison already has such an organization. Hopefully, this will appeal to students who are not involved in student organizations, as well as helping student organizations to recruit new members.

Chong will work on it during the summer, and MSC will help her to make it happen. Chong still need students to charter the new organization. She will attend tomorrow's luncheon and present this to other students at the luncheon.

Campus Kick-Off

Loretta reported that campus kick-off events will occur from Wednesday, August 27 through Friday, September 5, culminating at the PantherFest on SummerFest grounds. Similar to last year, PantherFest will be held at the same time as the Indian Summer. Band for the PantherFest will be contracted earlier this year.

All activities for the welcome week calendar should be submitted to Alice Jackson (x6996) by June 2. Also, all activities for the Sociocultural Programming calendar should be submitted to Alice Jackson by June 20. Please submit only three items per office, and the description should be kept to no more than three lines.

Myriad

Victoria reported that she is currently hiring writers (by May 19). *Myriad* will feature students, faculty/staff, and programs. The plan is to have it ready for distribution by mid-October.

Multicultural Recruitment Update

Yohlunda reported that the multicultural overnight program was very successful. Of the 47 students who registered, 32 participated in the program. According to the exit form, students scored the breakout sessions lowest, and really liked the Lyrical Sanctuary. The 18 student hosts also made the program successful. DRO received a lot of email inquiries about housing and financial aid from the participants.

Next year's program will be held on April 8 and 9, 2009 and will be "tied" to the Lyrical Sanctuary event again.

Yohlunda also mentioned that scholarships are available for fee waivers. This is intended to increase the number of students of color applying to UWM. The last U-Visit program is today.

AMSLC Update

Linda was concerned as to when the online registration will be available. It's the end of semester and students will be gone soon. She will find out the timeline from UW-Oshkosh. She also mentioned that there will be a \$20 cash deposit for each registrant. This money will be returned to students at the conference.

Units Reports/Other

Carmen – 20 out of 180 graduates attended the RHC graduation banquet on May 3. Approximately 200 people were at the dinner and dance.

Celeste – AISS is having an end of semester cookout for students. The citywide celebration to honor Milwaukee American Indian students and UWM graduates will be held on May 22.

Susan – The Multicultural Graduation Program/Reception was held on May 6.

It was suggested that there be an American Indian recruitment day. Leonard can help with that program.

MSC Committee may meet during the summer. Dates will be identified in the future.