

Committee on Diversity
Minutes
2 October 2015

Members in attendance: Alex Gedo, Chad Gunderson, Matthew Ingalls (minute-taker), Rachel DeMotts, Grace Livingston, Mike Valentine, Stuart Smithers.

Meeting called to order at 2:05.

Valentine asks for comments on last week's minutes. A few minor adjustments (mainly typos) are made, and Livingston is assigned as representative to the SGVC; she plans to speak with Oriel Siu to coordinate the responsibility for this assignment. Ingalls moves to accept minutes. DeMotts seconds. Minutes from last week are approved.

Valentine solicits announcements:

- Gedo updates group on certain students activities and protests on campus related to diversity;

- Gedo also solicits participants for a Sunday radio show to discuss political themes;

- Livingston announces fund raising dinner for a scholarship hosted by the Black Student Union.

DeMotts is introduced as CoD's liaison from the Faculty Senate. DeMotts reviews the two official charges that have been assigned and the third charge that is still being finalized in its language. She explains that there are three other charges that are seen as duplicated elsewhere and need not be reproduced as our official charges. DeMotts also explains that we are free to develop our own objectives and charges.

Gedo asks about the background on the "academic freedom" charge that is still being finalized. DeMotts explains more. Smithers asks about official discussions on campus related to trigger warnings.

Valentine notes that the visibility of the KNOW core requirement is not clear to the campus community, as has been noted by other faculty members in a faculty email (Suzanne Holland).

Livingston hopes that encouragement for KNOW courses comes from multiple levels and stimulates a public discussion that include faculty and other members of the campus to prevent tokenization.

Smithers notes other campuses in the region that host multiple events/awards (e.g. student paper awards) to bring the equivalent of KNOW core rubrics into their campus consciousness.

Livingston asks about whether a connection exists between the CoD and the hiring of the new president. Valentine says that nothing official exists. Smithers adds that the CoD should approach the Presidential Search Committee to see if “Guide to Best Practices in Inclusive Search Procedures” and related imperatives should apply to the actual hiring of the new president. Discussion ensues.

Valentine asks Livingston to compose an email for the committee’s review in which we ask the Board of Trustees about diversity considerations in the hiring of the new president.

Smithers notes that membership of the CoD seems to skew heavily towards males. Valentine replies that this is part of the natural ebb and flow of this committee’s membership and that female representation should increase on its own in the future.

Ingalls adds that he would like to discuss the presence of international students on campus as part of the CoD’s internal charges. Livingston replies that DAC has tackled this issue in its discussions.

Valentine and Livingston clarify the relationship between BHERT and the CoD. Valentine plans to follow up on this relationship.

Meet adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Ingalls.