

Multicultural and Diversity Committee
Kickoff Meeting
Friday, September 15th
3-5
Lilly Room

Present: Brian Hall, Sheethal Reddy, Cynthia Khan, Anya Benitez, Laura Brumariu, Peggy Poling

Excused: Jessica Demmings

Brian gave a brief history of the need for creating such a committee. Brian took the initiative to form this committee following his participation on the Ethnic Minority Recruitment Committee that was formed last year by Dr. Grau. This committee authored a report that outlined strategies for increasing diversity in our graduate program. In collaboration with Laura, Dr. Grau, and input from student colleagues from other universities, The Multicultural and Diversity Committee was created to implement some of these strategies and make a positive difference in the education of all students within this department through the promotion of an atmosphere of multicultural acceptance, competence, and diversity. This committee has already received great support from faculty. Dr. Grau is the faculty advisor for the committee.

Brian said his next step is to meet with Dr. Crowther regarding funding from the department to help with expenses to implement some of the ideas.

There was discussion about plans for brown bags, dinners, festivals, area events. Cynthia was thinking of bringing in food for Islamic holidays.

A draft copy of a Constitution was passed out and discussed. Many issues were ironed out (such as policies for removal, elections, etc.) Based on the discussions certain changes are being made before making it the official document.

This committee is using the same definition of diversity that the University uses, Brian will get that definition to the committee.

The name of the committee was discussed. A decision needs to be made whether we keep the Multicultural and Diversity Committee name or change it to the Diversity and Multicultural Committee.

It is critical that we document the timelines and tasks associated with each event we plan. We are formulating a legacy now, and each subsequent year will implement these and other projects - we'll provide them a roadmap.

Projects were discussed:

Sheethal-List serve and webpage. Check with Dr. Updegraff to get a link to the department web page. The KSU New Media Center at Moulton Hall provides webpage

development services for departments free of charge (contact persons: Carol Moore or David Cunningham).

Anya- Work on a grant offered through CEMA, the deadline to apply is December 1st. It is offered twice a year in the amount of \$500.00. Contact Dr. Grau to open a Committee bank account.

Cynthia-Working on an Undergraduate seminar to work on application process for late October. Psi Chi will take the lead in passing out fliers to encourage attendance. Also,

Jessica-Work on game night, karaoke night, movie night.