Commission on

Ethnic Diversity

minutes

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Time: 12:30PM – 2:00PM

Facilitator: Denise TrimbleSmith

Virtual Zoom meeting began at 12:33 pm.

**Participants:** Lauren Copeland-Glenn, Alyssa Deaver, Blase Scarnati, Lori Rubino-Hare, Sharon Doctor, Valeria Chase, Vidal Mendoza, Martin Tease, Grace Ditsworth, Juana Bermudez Martinez, Kevin Gemoets, Calvin Legassie, Bekka Alvarado, Shannon Clark , Melissa Armstrong, Denise TrimbleSmith, Joy D’Angelo, Tori Rodriguez, Danielle Donaldson, Grace Okoli, Lorena Lechuga Gutierez, Rosie Cordova, Shane Canitz, and Eric Otenyo.

1. Denise welcomed commission to the meeting and went over how to utilize Zoom, including participant buttons and skin tone of emojis.
2. Denise called for a motion to vote to adopt agenda.
   1. The motion was made and was seconded.
   2. Motion carried by majority.
3. Introductions were made.

Used breakout rooms for further introductions for approximately 7 minutes.

1. **IMQ Services Presentation (Vidal Mendoza and Dr. Martin Tease):** Vidal and Dr. Martin introduced themselves as part of IMQ.
   1. They stated that virtual programming will continue this semester.
   2. Marian and Dr. Martian work with LGBTQ+ students, Jessica with Black students, and Vidal with Hispanic/Latinx students.
   3. Vidal stated that September will be Hispanic Heritage Month and asked members to inform students about virtual events.
   4. Dr. Martin mentioned a weekly newsletter and to email him or Vidal if someone wants to subscribe.
      1. Can also follow on Facebook.
      2. Recent and upcoming events include chat/film series and advocate series for LGBTQ+ individuals in workplace, as well as the Out and Proud Panel.
         * Please email Dr. Martin for more information.
   5. Denise asked for any questions for IMQ.
   6. None were posited.
2. **Parent and Family Services Presentation (Shannon Clark):** 
   1. Introductions were made.
   2. Shannon clarified that this is part of the Office of the Dean of Students.
      1. It is located on the first floor of the Student Union in room 104.
   3. She said that the doors are always open and expanded on some resources.
      1. Bimonthly newsletter called The Backpack.
         * Can get info out to families via this or social media.
   4. Emergency programs/resources include:
      1. Louie’s Cupboard in Room 212
         * Every other Friday there is a food distribution for students, faculty, or staff
         * Now have fridge and can now give out bread and fresh produce.
         * Asked everyone to spread the word.
         * Mentioned numbers of students using this resource are rising and just about doubled since last year.
         * Also now has a van to transport about five students at a time to Family Foodbank to pick up a box of food.
      2. Lumberjack Emergency Assistance Fund
         * This is for students who have suffered an emergency that put them in financially vulnerable situation.
         * Application opens every Wednesday at 8:00 am sharp.
      3. Course Material Assistance Program (formerly Emergency Textbook Loan Program)
         * Can be used to cover any required course materials
         * For undergraduate students only
           1. Pell-eligible students can apply
         * Maintained $100,000 budget for this year
           1. Each student picked gets a voucher of $300 to spend on required course materials
         * Applications reopen this Spring
      4. Reba Miller is a social worker available in office to meet with students about locating resources.
   5. Please refer students to these resources or submit a Care Report for student if worried about them.
3. **Speech Expression Action and Knowledge Team (SPEAK Team) Presentation** (Kevin Gemoets):
   1. Kevin explained this is another office in the Office of the Dean of Students.
   2. And that it is made up of volunteer staff members.
   3. Its purpose is to “ensure free speech rights on campus”, such as marches, gatherings, and protestors
      1. SPEAK Team helps maintain safety throughout and talks to upset students.
      2. Can get NAU PD involved to keep speakers/protesters and bystanders safe.
   4. Looking for more volunteers to assist with events.
      1. There will be a training for new recruits.
      2. Email Kevin if interested in participating.
4. **Neighborhood Liaison Presentation** (Valeria Chase):
   1. Valeria clarified that the program is co-funded through City of Flagstaff and NAU.
   2. Its purpose is to help build relationships between students who live off-campus and long-term residents.
      1. For example, during COVID, helped make students aware of resources to help with apartment complexes etc.
      2. Also let Community Managers know about early start date for fall 2020 semester due to COVID, and was involved in handing out health kits and keeping students safe.
      3. Had to put off Community Welcome event this year due to COVID but planning to send out packet instead to the two neighborhoods usually visited.
   3. Announced that the South Side Plan will go into effect on September 20th
      1. It is a document creating guidelines for policymaking for South Side community that will help stop gentrification and help keep the current community members’ vision.
   4. If anyone wants to partner or offer ideas for relationship-building in the community, they should contact Valeria via email.
      1. Also, the Instagram handle is NAU\_offcampuslife.
5. Denise mentioned Dr. Cheng’s recently announced decision to not renew contract for next year.
6. Denise mentioned how the CoCom meetings are set up to allow the commissions to work in solidarity and collaborate.
   1. Dr. Cheng spent considerable time at the last meeting and provided some slides at the meeting about enrollment on each campus. \*Note, these numbers are a snapshot and will fluctuate.
      1. Denise talked about specific groups that increased and decreased.
         * For instance, large decline in international students.
           1. CIE provided information that 600 International students have started online and will hopefully be able to attend in person in the spring, which may help explain this large decline.
      2. Denise showed an outline of how Dr. Cheng also broke the numbers down by college and virtual learning.
      3. Denise also talked about Ivy Banks’ presentation at this meeting and Ivy’s strategies for getting these numbers up.
   2. Denise mentioned that she and Lauren will send a synopsis of this information covered at the CoCom meeting out to the CED commission at a later time.
   3. Denise provided information on zoom-bombings at important diversity events, but that we are pulling together as a community.
7. Denise opened floor to questions and concerns.
   1. There were none.
8. Denise mentioned her term is up as a co-chair and that the group needs to have nominations and elections soon.
   1. She said she will communicate the election process via the Listserv.
   2. The co-chair positions are a two-year commitment and consist of a staff member and a faculty member.
9. Denise called to move to adjourn meeting.
   1. Meeting was moved to adjourn and was seconded.
   2. Motion carried.
10. Meeting officially adjourned at 2:03 pm.