

Senate Diversity Committee Meeting

Minutes of September 10, 2014

Dodd Center Room 162

10:30 AM-11:30 AM

In attendance: Casey Cobb, Manisha Desai, Maria Luz Fernandez (Chair), Shayla Nunnally, Gene Salorio, Bill Stwalley

1. The minutes of the May 8 meeting were approved
2. This meeting was not well attended because at this point of the semester, the other Senate Committees had not nominated their respective representatives for the Senate Diversity Committee with the exception of Shayla Nunnally.
3. The main discussion of the committee was a shared concern on what are the plans and the University agenda in relationship to the *Strategic Plan for Diversity* at UConn. Jeff Ogbar resigned as Vice Provost for Diversity during the summer and nothing has been said on a replacement for this key position. A number of us had already drafted a document with three main Goals: *Goal 1*: Develop a University Climate that Actively Supports Diversity and Equity; *Goal 2*: Recruit and Retain an Increased Number of Diverse Faculty and Staff and *Goal 3*: Establish a Rigorous and Specific Annual System of Measurement, Evaluation, Accountability and Compliance
4. The Committee also was just informed during the last Senate meeting on September 8th that the Provost just created a Task force to better articulate and implement the Diversity Agenda on hiring and retention of Diverse Faculty and Staff. There was a climate of unease and apprehension that nobody from the Senate Diversity Committee had been invited at that point to be part of this new Task force.
5. It was decided that Mark Overmyer would be invited to our next meeting so that he could give us an update on what is the status on the *Diversity Strategic Plan* that many of us including Mark spent a huge amount of time in preparing by meeting with various constituencies throughout the Academic year and in drafting ideas to have this plan in place to better advance Diversity at UConn. It is the hope of the Committee that this draft will be used by the newly created Task Force and that all of our good faith efforts will be taken into consideration for the creation of the new *Strategic Plan for Diversity*.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am

Respectfully submitted

Maria Luz Fernandez, PhD
Chair, Senate Diversity Committee