

Senate Diversity Committee Meeting

October 11, 2017

10:30 AM-12 pm

In Attendance: Sandy Bushmich, Zachary Corolla, Casey Cobb, Alice Fairfield, Maria Luz Fernandez (Chair), Amy Howell, Brendan Kane, Donna Korbel, Lisa Pane, Josh La Porte, Peter Luh, Joelle Murchison (called in), Willena Price, Christina Rivera, Anastasio Tzingounis, Susana Ulloa.

1. The minutes from our last meeting on September 13 were approved
2. The Central discussion of the meeting was about Metanoia and how the Senate Diversity Committee would be participating in such important event. Many ideas were discussed and we finally agreed to have a presence at the Student Union to have major contact with students, staff and faculty. We decided to bring written information about our main agenda items for the current Academic year as well as to bring materials to illustrate race/ethnicity distribution among faculty, staff and students and see how they compare to the State of Connecticut's racial distribution. It was also decided that all Committee members will attend the event since it will be held on November 9th, which was our time for our already scheduled meeting. Zachary Corolla, our student representative, confirmed that he would make sure to attract students to our Table.
3. We also had a discussion regarding the representation of a diversity person on major administrative searches including the Provost and the Deans. Maria Luz was informed that President Herbst confirmed that it was too late for the Provost Chair. In addition, she was also told that there was not a lot of support from the SEC for this idea. Maria Luz promised to discuss this important issue in with the SEC in the monthly lunch of the Senate Chairs.
4. Following our discussion regarding the priorities for this semester, we would like to continue our focus on other items of our agenda including the training of employees for the implicit bias, diversity mentors for faculty and staff, and implementation of a more formal exit interview to understand why we do not have a better retention of under-represented faculty and staff.
5. We also agreed to plan a last meeting in December to discuss Metanoia events and continue with our agenda
6. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Maria Luz Fernandez, PhD

Chair, Senate Diversity Committee