

Senate Diversity Committee Meeting

December 7, 2017

10:30 AM-12 pm

In Attendance: Zachary Corolla, Casey Cobb, Alice Fairfield, Maria Luz Fernandez (Chair), Pam Heath-Johnston, Amy Howell, Lisa Pane, Joelle Murchison, Christina Rivera, Anastasio Tzingounis, Susana Ulloa.

1. The minutes from our last meeting on October 11 were approved
2. During the meeting we discussed Metanoia and the interactions that the Committee members had with students, staff, faculty and administrators who came to our Table, which was set on the first floor at the Student Union. We had a lot of visitors to our Table and some of them shared stories with us about racism at UConn. We provided two types of handouts: 1) the major initiatives/plans for the Senate Diversity Committee on this Academic Year and various graphs showing the distribution by race of students, faculty and staff at UConn. Almost 100% of the members of the Committee showed up for this event.
3. Janine Cairo, from the Provost Search Committee Search and also a member of the SEC, visited the Committee to express her point of view regarding the presence of somebody officially representing diversity in search committees for high level Administrative positions. She told us that all members in the Search Committee were trained in diversity issues and that she felt that it was not necessary the presence of another person specifically addressing diversity during the search process. What the Committee communicated to Janine is that we do not wish this person to be present during the interview process, only at the selection of the candidates that are being invited to be interviewed. After listening to this piece of information, Janine said that she would bring this issue to the SEC. The Committee hopes that this issue can be solved for future searches at the high Administrative level that will take place in the near future.
4. There was a lot of discussion surrounding the issue of the speaker that was brought by a UConn student group, Lucian Wintrich, on November 14. We discussed that this unfortunate incident happened so close to Metanoia and also what we can do as a Committee to support those students who felt attacked and discriminated by the comments of the speaker. We also talked about the email sent by President Herbst regarding controversial speakers on December 1st. The Committee believes that some of this issues will resurface in the next weeks.
5. We will meet until February and revisit our agenda priorities for the Spring Semester

6. Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted

Maria Luz Fernandez, PhD

Chair, Senate Diversity Committee