

Senate Diversity Committee Meeting

November 8, 2018

10:30 AM-12 pm

In Attendance: Zachary Corolla, Casey Cobb, Alice Fairfield, Maria Luz Fernandez (Chair), Pam Heath-Johnston, Amy Howell, Brendan Kane, Donna Korbel, Lisa Pane, Josh La Porte, Peter Luh, Joelle Murchison, Willena Price, Anastasio Tzingounis, Susana Ulloa, Ernie Zirakzadeh

The Senate Diversity Committee participated in Metanoia on this date. We had a Table located in the Student Union first floor. We were approached by students, Student Union workers, faculty, staff and administrators.

We had two different handouts for people: 1) A list of the priorities of the Senate Diversity Committee for the Academic year 2017-2018 and several charts indicating the race/ethnicity distribution of Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students.

We had several people come to our Table and we engaged in a number of conversations related to the handouts. We asked everybody to sign and give us our thoughts. We had a great number of people signing but not all of them left messages.

Among the people who approached our Table, some left notes about challenges they experience in the current National climate in terms of racism, bigotry and other.

Here are some of the Comments that are worthy to mention: " I am a Latino undergraduate student and I have never experienced racism"

I am very interested in hiring/retention of under-represented faculty and staff "I have heard from friends about discrimination against African American students.

"We need more diversity programs to help understand the majority why the minority fell the way they do"

"We need to continue encouraging dialogue and understanding among faculty, staff and students"

"We need cultural competency for faculty when it comes to students"

"We need to have staff ethnicity ratios more comparable to that of the state. Minorities are under-represented.

We also distributed the flyers among the people in the Student Union. It was interesting to talk to those individuals who work in the kitchen since they were not aware of Metanoia and the race distribution among workers.

Overall, it was a great experience for everybody. We had almost 100% representation of the Senate Diversity Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Luz Fernandez, PhD
Chair, Senate Diversity Committee