

JEDI Meeting
March 25, 2021

1. Attendance

- a. In attendance: Thomas Long, Willena Price, Anastasio Tzingounis, Kimberly McKeown, Margaret Rubega, Manuela Wagner, Clarissa Ceglio, Maryann Markowski, Julie Guild, Maria-Luz Fernandez, Likhita Athena, George McManus, Frank Tuitt, Aida Silva, Stephany Santos, Damani R. Douglas. (Dianne Lillo-Martin joined the meeting at the halfway mark).

2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

- a. No corrections were made to the February Meeting Minutes.
- b. Fernandez motioned to approve the minutes.
- c. Guild seconds to approve the minutes.
- d. 13 yes; none opposed.
- e. Ceglio abstaining.
- f. Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

3. Chairs' Report (Margaret Rubega Updates)

- a. Rubega reports on University Climate Working Group (co-chaired with Kathleen Holgerson):
 - i. The working group will be sending out a survey to learn more about who is administering University Climate assessments in their unit; please encourage your constituent units to respond.

4. Frank Tuitts' Updates

- a. There was a series of town halls held.
- b. Provided Frank Tuitt, the President, the Provost, and Michael Bradford the opportunity to highlight things that they have been working on in response to previous town halls.
- c. In the meeting, they explained that a two hour anti-racism training will be held for assistant and associate VPs, for the President and Vice Provost, Department Heads, Deans and Associate Deans.
- d. The search for an ODI Assistant VP who will be responsible for UConn Health has gone live.
- e. ODI is in the process of creating a University-wide web portal.
- f. ODI has begun a conversation with the HR office about how we advertise our search positions. Some of the language is out-dated in terms of diversity and inclusion and needs to be updated.
- g. There have been requests from students asking for resources and programs that support Middle Eastern students on campus. ODI is now providing this support on

a temporary basis. The plan is to think more about this next year, so we can create permanent resources.

- h. Markowski asked if the campaign for updating faculty demographic information is applied to staff as well?
 - i. There will be similar efforts done in the future for the staff.

5. Delta GE2 Updates (Visitors: Thomas Long & Manuela Wagner)

- a. The Delta GE2 Taskforce found that students and some faculty often feel detached from the general education curriculum.
- b. The Taskforce started to brainstorm the purpose of General Education, and they created 6 Ways of Knowing related to the purpose of General Education.
- c. The Taskforce tried to break down the content areas, to allow students to have choice so they can pick the types of classes they are interested in.
- d. Currently, the Taskforce is working to incorporate the topic of diversity and social justice into multiple topics of inquiry.
- e. The Taskforce is working to get the multicultural diversity courses at UConn to discuss the structure of oppression, dominance, colonialism, etc.
- f. The Taskforce is trying to find ways departments can team-teach and provide this topic in multidisciplinary ways.
- g. There are some specific majors that are restrictive with general education courses students can take due to certification purposes, but hopefully this new way thinking about general education can open up some multidisciplinary pathways.
- h. How is the Taskforce planning to educate the advisors about the new general education curriculum? Also, with this timeline, when will everything get approved?
 - i. They are currently planning things now, however they will really plan it out fully on how to educate advisors once everything gets approved.
 - ii. For a period of time, there will be students grandfathered in under our current general education curriculum, while others will be under the new curriculum.
- i. There is a concern that some departments/schools will pick themes and pick courses that fit those themes, and will limit students with what courses they are allowed to take.
- j. In some departments, students are not allowed to add a course without taking out another one due to credit hour requirements.
- k. Reach out to Thomas Long and Manuela Wagner if you have any questions or concerns.

6. Final Edit of Anti-Racism Resolution Draft

- a. The purpose of this document is to allow the Senate to make a statement on anti-racism because they have not made a statement yet.
- b. Add a bullet point about intersectionality of identities.

- i. The purpose of this resolution is to prevent any exclusion of any kind.
- c. We are trying to focus specifically on anti-racism, so broadly mention intersectionality, to ensure that it is accounted for.
- d. Anti-Racism Resolution Statement was approved.