

College of Arts and Letters Diversity Council

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015, 11am, Harrison 1131

Present: Andreas Broscheid (scribe), Erica Cavanagh, Stephen Chappell, Jenny Davis, Frances Flannery, David Jeffrey, Yenisei Montes, Christine Robinson, Alexandra Vilela

1. Dr. Chappell brought macaroons again. He is running the risk of creating expectations for future meetings.
2. Announcements
 - a. Cultural diversity and religious diversity workshop offered by students in REL (see attached). The council will inquire with Danielle Abraham whether she is willing to offer this workshop on a wider basis.
 - b. IDEA grant proposals due January 15, 2016 (see attached)
 - c. David Jeffrey reported on his visit to Tuskegee University. JMU hopes to initiate faculty exchanges over the next couple of years.
3. Report from the JMU diversity council meeting of November 18, 2015
Jenny Davis and Erica Cavanagh attended the meeting, which was attended by President Alger in order to engage in a conversation on diversity at JMU in the context of racial conflicts at various universities nationwide. President Alger emphasized a commitment to increase diversity in the curriculum. The CAL group noted that it would be helpful in this context to advocate for additional funds for hiring faculty with diverse academic interests. It was also noted that we should bring diversity-related activities and resources to President Alger's attention.
4. Reports on library resources
On council member reported that they had sent resources to David Owusu-Ansah and Christie Liu but had not received a response. The council member suggested to send requests for resources to the librarian in charge for the faculty-member's discipline, with a note that these resources should be paid through library diversity funds.
5. Faculty networking AKA mentoring
While several council members expressed the belief that there is a need for networking around diversity, there seemed to be a general sense that the first step in improving networking opportunities should be to identify existing networks and publicizing these more clearly, for example on the CAL diversity website or the diversity minutes. Frances Flannery and Yenisei Montes agreed to explore what networking activities may be available through ALANA.
6. Frances Flannery proposed an initiative to support first-generation students at JMU. The council expressed its support for the initiative. Dr. Flannery will work with a number of council members to contact potential collaborators on campus or other persons who may provide supportive information.