

## **Student Life Committee Minutes March 26, 2009**

Attending: Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Lisa Ferrari, Aislinn Melchior, Tiffany Aldrich MacBain, Duane Hulbert, Charlie Guiguet, Mita Mahato, Nick Qutub, and guests Kim Bobby and Yoshiko Matsui.

The meeting was convened at 4:00 pm

Nick Kontogeorgopoulos introduced Kim Bobby and Yoshiko Matsui from the Multi-Cultural Services Office. He then provided the following updates and announcements:

Nick K. will contact the Faculty Senate to present a motion to ask for changes to the by-laws to the Student Life Committee.

Debbie Chee from the Residential Seminars will attend the next meeting (4/9/09) to discuss offerings from that program.

**Kim Bobby, Chief Diversity Officer/Associate Professor in the School of Education and Yoshiko Matsui, director of Multicultural Student Services described the offerings available to students through their programs.** Created in 1999-2000, MCSS was created by combining services already in place in other departments that served the needs of cultural awareness on campus. Among the projects from the early days was the Japanese Internment Awareness project that dates from 1992.

Once MCSS was granted a facility, the Student Diversity Center was founded as a meeting place for groups and individual students interested in cultural awareness. The Center also provides a kitchen space, storage space, event venue, and relaxation place for students. Seven campus committees meet between 4:00-8:00 PM in the Diversity Center including the Diversity Faculty Committee, the Asia/Pacific Student Union, Korean Exchange group, the Student Diversity group, Jewish Student Organization, Black Student Union, LGBTQA Student organization, and the Interfaith Council. MCSS provides funding for student trips to conferences, ongoing training sessions for Diversity sensitivity, encourages faculty members to incorporate Diversity issues into their curriculum and provides a counseling services for students dealing personal issues relating to diversity.

Among the for a sponsored by MCSS are: "Take Back the Night,"(a program that inspires women and men to confront violence and speak out against it) "Moment Us," (a program that celebrates Diversity) the Race Readers Group, "Making a Difference in a Positive Way," BERT (Bias-Hate Education Response Team), and an interview process called "Creating a Culture of Inclusive Learning." The center also provides a meeting place for women's groups, including FAVA. The Peer Advisors group meets at MCSS. This is a program that provides training for freshman student advisors on how to handle diversity sensitivity issues. Yoshiko summarized the services offered by the MCSS as a place where students to gather formally and informally to talk about issues relating to diversity.

Kim Bobby was then introduced as the Chief Diversity Officer. She also teaches classes in the School of Education. Some of the goals outlined by her were 1) To sponsor Fora on Diversity issues, including the Race and Pedagogy conferences. 2) To create a culture of inclusive learning in the classroom. 3) To appreciative the value inherent in differences among

students 4) To break down the barriers of long-held misconceptions relating to race issues 5) Encourage participation and discussion on diversity among students of color through the distribution of the "Climate Survey." 6) Train faculty on how to handle awkward situations relating to race and diversity. 7) Sponsor mentoring programs for community youth in the summer. 8) Serve as the Affirmative Action officer for hiring decisions. 9) Offer training and services relating to women's issues on date rape through the "When Hello Gets out of Hand" program.

Yoshiko Matsui reminded the committee of funding opportunities for faculty "field trips" with students, as they relate to diversity issues.

Nick K. thanked Kim and Yoshiko for enlightening and informing the committee on issues relating to diversity through their visit to our meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Duane Hulbert

The next meeting of the Student Life Committee will be Thursday, April 9.