

**Diversity Education Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**

**Minutes
Planning Group Meeting
April 9, 2008, 10:00am**

Participants: Susan Breck, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Peter Theodore, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Announcements:
 - a. Barbara provided an update regarding the Inquiry Conference. The group decided that a DEP meeting should be held after the April 18, 2008, conference in order to make some decisions for next year's conference. The date will be April 30, 2008, 10am. In announcing the meeting Laurie will make it clear that only those interested in discussing the conference should attend.
 - b. Peter provided an update on the early childhood & sexuality session that he and Elizabeth Sherwood have been planning. It was decided that further discussion of the appropriate venue for that session should occur, and that the session would be held in Fall 2008.
2. Minutes from January 30, 2008: approved
3. Logo and other website issues: Thanks to Melissa, DEP has a website, and thanks to Ralph, DEP has a logo (developed by Ralph's partner). Laurie circulated the logo. She will e-mail it to Melissa for the website. Melissa updated the group on other aspects of the website development, and showed us what it looks like. Laurie will e-mail other documents to Melissa. Barbara will e-mail the Inquiry Conference program to Melissa once the program is done so that the website can link to the program.
4. Laurie updated the group on recent developments with the Piasa Bluffs Writing Project, based on a recent meeting she had with Ralph. Ralph would like DEP to do a session at the 2008 Piasa Bluffs Writing Project Summer Literacy Institute. The group brainstormed about such a session, and proposed that it be a give-and-take session on all aspects of diversity. The focus of the session should be: How do the institute participants (teachers) believe that we (teacher educators) should prepare teachers to deal with diversity? What types of diversity education are needed? From their perspective (as teachers and as potential SIUE cooperating teachers) what do SIUE student teachers need to know? DEP representatives will make it clear that we are open to talking about multiple types of diversity, including race, sexual orientation, language, and other areas. A focus group format might be appropriate. DEP reps can/should bring resources to share with the institute participants, such as Rethinking Schools publications and/or teacher-aimed documents available through the Southern Poverty Law Center. Laurie will discuss this possibility with Ralph, and schedule a time and determine who the actual DEP participants might be. Laurie also reported that PBWP will be applying for an Urban Sites Network grant, and would like DEP collaboration with that.
5. Laurie reported that Gretchen Fricke has suggested that there is a need for a support group for minority teacher education students at SIUE. The group discussed this issue. Two issues that were felt to be important were the need to begin by researching existing SIUE resources in this area, so that a teacher education group does not reinvent the wheel and that it utilizes what is already there to an appropriate extent. The group also stressed the need to empower/help students to create their own group, as opposed to making a group for them. The group also discussed the potential need for a faculty advisor for the group.