

Diversity Education Project

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Minutes Planning Group Meeting August 28, 2007, 10am

Participants: Jenny Bolander, Susan Breck, Ralph Cordova, David DeWeese, Stephanie McAndrews, Barbara O'Donnell, Caroline Pryor, Laurie Puchner, Bill Searcy, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Peter Theodore, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Announcements:

- Inquiry Conference planning is underway: Barbara O'Donnell gave an overview of the conference planning to this point. The conference date is April 18, 2008, and she is working on rooms. The conference planning committee comprises Jenny Bolander, Barbara O'Donnell, and Allison Fahsl. Ann Taylor and Laurie Puchner are additional consultants. The planning committee will be meeting later this week.

2. Minutes from April 23: These were approved.

3. Standing Committee: Participants discussed progress in development of a SOE standing committee that would do such things as monitor diversity-related activities, work on faculty and student retention issues, work on results of previous diversity-related task forces, and collect and analyze data related to diversity. This would be a faculty standing committee, and Bill Searcy would like to help get the committee developed, via a small working group. Susan Breck expressed interest in being a part of the working group. Bill said he would also talk to Michael Afolayan and to some non-teacher education faculty about being a part of the working group. The working group will develop some draft operating papers, and then submit them for discussion at a faculty meeting.

4. Teacher education professional development event planning: This discussion began with a look at some bullet points from the April meeting. Ann Taylor gave an overview of the work of ALSO, and Susan Breck gave an overview of the Golden Apple initiative. With Golden Apple, there is a possibility that SIUE could do one of the required summer institutes on culturally responsive teaching. Those overviews were followed by a very fruitful discussion of teacher education professional development ideas for this year. Among the ideas presented were the following:

- developing modules on race and other issues similar to the modules developed by ALSO;
- developing sessions that revolve around discussion of an interesting article;

- scheduling sessions in classes, but then inviting other teacher education faculty to attend;
- doing one or two C&I Brown Bag sessions this year
- organizing peer review around the teaching of specific diversity topics for interested faculty;
- advertising our sessions/services on the SOE website;
- applying for SOE faculty development money
- doing a ½ day or one day session on some aspect of diversity with an outside consultant

Projects that we decided to go forward with are the following:

- A C&I Brown Bag event on linguistic diversity. Ralph Cordova and Zsuzsanna Szabo will organize this. Laurie will give them the names of some CAS faculty who might be interesting in working with them on it.
- Development of a session/module on race, centered around a particular journal article. Ann Taylor will work on this, and Laurie will send her the names of some potential additional faculty members (particularly from CAS) who will work with her on it. Melissa Thomeczek would like the session to be done in her class.
- Development of a session/module on sexuality issues in early childhood education. This will also be centered around a specific article. Peter Theodore and Melissa Thomeczek will work on this. They will also contact Elizabeth Sherwood.

5. Next meeting will take place end of October.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, August 28, 2007