

SIUE Diversity Project

Report of Activities 2006-2007 Academic Year

Introduction

The SIUE Diversity Project was originally initiated as a project titled: “Partners for Educational Leadership: Fostering Access and Diversity.” Funded by the Higher Education Cooperation Act, SIUE was given \$10,000 for the 2004-2005 academic year in order to plan a human relations (diversity) training program for teacher education faculty, in collaboration with the Chicago branch of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) and Chicago State University (CSU). Unfortunately NCCJ did not receive funding for the implementation year (2005-2006). However, the SIUE planning group continued to work on diversity professional development for teacher education faculty at SIUE during the 2005-2006 academic year and again during the 2006-2007 academic year. (See previous year’s report for 2005-2006 activities).

Meetings

The Diversity Project planning committee met four times during the 2006-2007 academic year – three times in the fall and once in the spring. During the first meeting on 11 September 2006 plans for the upcoming year were discussed. It was decided that a second meeting would be held at the end of the month to which all teacher educators at SIUE would be invited as a means of expanding membership to interested individuals. It was also decided that a major activity for the year would be preparation of an Excellence in Undergraduate Education (EUE) grant proposal. Hence a second meeting was held on September 27. At that meeting the preparation of the EUE proposal was the focus of discussion. Discussion of the EUE grant proposal continued during the next meeting in October, 2006. A final meeting for the year was held in April, 2007. At that meeting the future structure and goals of the diversity project were discussed. Minutes of these meetings are attached.

Brown Bag Events

Three Teacher Educator Professional Development Brown Bag events were held during the 2006-2007 academic year. The first was a Brown Bag on Disabilities, led by Vicki Scott on October 18, 2006 from 12:30-1:30pm, and attended by six teacher education faculty members. The second was a Brown Bag on Race, held in conjunction with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction Brown Bag series, on January 22, 2007, from 12:15-1:15. This Brown Bag was facilitated by Ralph Cordova and Ann Taylor, and was attended by 15-25 faculty members. The final event was a Brown Bag discussion on Gender, Fairness, and the Public School Classroom, facilitated by Laurie Puchner and Barbara O’Donnell. The gender brown bag was held in conjunction with Women’s

History Month, on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, from 12-1pm. Four faculty members, included two from the SOE and two from CAS, participated.

Excellence in Undergraduate Education Proposal

Two members of the Diversity Project Planning Committee and one additional faculty member wrote and submitted an application for an \$8, 840 Excellence in Undergraduate Education grant. The grant was awarded. The grant project involves implementation of a conference for undergraduate and graduate teacher education students in April 2008. The themes for the conference are diversity and inquiry. A synopsis of the project is attached.

Future Activities

The Diversity Project plans to continue its role facilitating professional development in the area of diversity for teacher educators. Two of this year's brown bag events were poorly attended, making it clear that holding events in classes or in conjunction with other organizations is a better idea than holding stand alone events. The first meeting of the planning committee for the 2007-2008 academic year will be held during the second week of classes. At that meeting Brown Bag discussions and other events will be planned.

Planning Committee Membership

Membership on the planning committee was somewhat fluid in 2006-2007. Below are names of individuals who attended each of the four meetings. Laurie Puchner facilitated the planning committee and all of the meetings.

September 11, 2006:

Ralph Cordova
David Deweese
Barbara O'Donnell
Laurie Puchner
Ann Taylor

September 27, 2006:

Jenny Bolander
Susan Breck
Ralph Cordova
Anthony Denkyirah
David Deweese
Nicole Klein
Stephanie McAndrews
Barbara O'Donnell
Caroline Pryor
Laurie Puchner
Jason Stacy
Zsuzsanna Szabo
Ann Taylor

Peter Theodore
Melissa Thomeczek

October 25, 2006

Susan Breck
Jenny Bolander
Barbara O'Donnell
Laurie Puchner
Zsuzsanna Szabo
Peter Theodore

April 23, 2007

Susan Breck
Ralph Cordova
Barbara O'Donnell
Laurie Puchner
Donyell Roseboro
Zsuzsanna Szabo
Ann Taylor
Peter Theodore
Melissa Thomeczek

**“Fostering Diversity” Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Planning Group Meeting
September 11, 2006, 9am**

Participants: Ralph Cordova, David Deweese, Barbara O’Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Ann Taylor

Minutes

1. Announcements
 - Report of last year’s work is available
 - ELTI November event – Ellen Lavelle asked Laurie to help find facilitator(s) for a November ELTI event called “Teaching for Social Change.” Laurie had made some suggestions.
 - Elementary education workshops – Ann Taylor and others are conducting educational sessions on sexuality for elementary education students this fall

2. Activities for 2006-2007
 - October workshop facilitated by Vicki Scott – Vicki is still planning to do a brown bag discussion on disabilities for teacher educators. Committee decided to see if the workshop could be part of the C&I Brown Bag series. Ann and/or Laurie will contact C&I brown bag coordinator about this.
 - Decided to do 2 other brown bags – one on race, with Ann Taylor & Ralph Cordova facilitating, and another on gender issues in public schools. The latter would be part of women’s history month, and will be organized by Barbara O’Donnell and Laurie Puchner. The workshop on race issues will be held in January and the one on gender in March.
 - EUE grant/EGE grant – Committee discussed the possibility of writing an EUE and EGE proposal for a teacher education inquiry conference involving multiple teacher education programs and departments. Graduate and undergraduate students would present (in poster format) their final projects and assignments. Students will also participate in breakout sessions on diversity issues.
 - ELTI spring panel workshop – Ellen Lavelle would like help with the planning of a spring panel on diversity. One committee member suggested that someone from the National Writing Project could come and talk. Laurie will suggest that to Ellen.

3. Next meeting – The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 27, from 12:30-2pm. All interested teacher educators will be invited to attend. From 12:30-1pm the focus will be on updating new people on the project’s past and present work. From 1-2pm the meeting will focus on brainstorming and organizing for the EUE and EGE grants.

4. Meeting adjourned at 10am.

Diversity Project

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Planning Group Meeting September 27, 2006, 12:30pm Minutes

Participants: Jenny Bolander, Susan Breck, Ralph Cordova, Anthony Denkyirah, David DeWeese, Nicole Klein, Stephanie McAndrews, Barbara O'Donnell, Caroline Pryor, Laurie Puchner, Jason Stacy, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Peter Theodore, Melissa Thomeczek,

1. Project Background and activities planned for 2006-2007: Puchner described how the project began and its evolution over the past two years. She referred participants to a handout describing past and future activities (see attached)
2. EUE/EGE grant
 - a. General vision – Ann Taylor described the plan for a Dean's grant-funded Inquiry Conference that would take place in spring 07 for graduate and undergraduate students in the Elementary Education Program. This would be Phase 1. Phases 2 and 3 would involve EGE and EUE money, and involve as many teacher education programs as are interested. The theme of the conferences will be diversity. One aspect will be sharing of master's final projects and undergraduate senior assignments. A second aspect will be participation in diversity-related sessions.
 - b. Participants brainstormed a number of ideas, including a keynote speaker and inviting cooperating teachers. A possible scenario would be to have a keynote plus 3 hours. One hour would be structured sharing of student work, followed by two one-hour diversity workshops chosen by the student. For masters students the presentation at the conference might replace their oral defense, and the event could involve awards and/or celebration.
 - c. Funding sources: Ann Taylor and Ralph Cordova will take the lead in writing the EUE application; Laurie Puchner and Peter Theodore will take the lead in writing the EGE application¹; Stephanie McAndrews and Jenny Bolander will take the lead in writing a Dean's grant.
3. Wrap-up: a follow-up meeting to work out more grant details will be held on October 25th, at 1pm.

¹ It should be noted that the Graduate School has since announced to the university community that there will be no EGE competition for the next 3 years, as it has been replaced by the SAGE competition.

Diversity Project

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

2005-2006 Activities

- Professional Development Brown Bag Discussion on “Addressing difficult topics (such as race, gender, etc.) in our classes”, facilitated by Laurie Puchner, November 30, 2005
- Workshop on Diversity (with an emphasis on race) for teacher education faculty at SIUE, facilitated by two expert consultants, January 27, 2006
- Professional Development Brown Bag Discussion on “Race Issues”, facilitated by Donyell Roseboro and Michael Afolayan, February 12, 2006
- Brown Bag discussion on “Combatting Homophobia in Public Schools”, held in conjunction with Safe Zone and Women’s History Month, facilitated by Ann Taylor and Laurie Puchner, March 20, 2006

Activities Planned for 2006-2007

- Professional Development Brown Bag Discussion on “Talking about Disabilities”, facilitated by Vicki Scott, October 18, 2006, 12:30-1:30pm
- Professional Development Brown Bag Discussion on Race (“Role of cultural lenses in education” or “Race, public schools, and teacher education?”), facilitated by Ralph Cordova and Ann Taylor, January 2007. In collaboration with the C&I Brown Bag Series
- Brown Bag Discussion on gender issues in public schools, in conjunction with Women’s History Month, organized by Barbara O’Donnell and Laurie Puchner, March 2007
- EUE/EGE grant proposals
- Participation in Western Illinois Diversity Conference
- Other?

Diversity Project

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Planning Group Meeting October 25, 2006, 1pm

Minutes

Participants: Susan Breck, Jenny Bolander, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Peter Theodore

1. Announcements: Brown Bag on Race with Ralph Cordova and Ann Taylor will take place on January 22, 2007, from 12:15 to 1:15. Brown Bag on Gender, organized by Barbara O'Donnell and Laurie Puchner will take place some time during women's history month.
2. Review of minutes from September 27 meeting: approved
3. The committee discussed funding of the Inquiry conference 2008. The following issues were raised:
 - There will be no EGE's for 3 years
 - may not be a good idea to apply for EUE (soft money) for a project that will need to be funded every year
 - EUE program does not like to fund projects that will need money every year
 - If do EUE, may need to argue that the 2008 conference would be an EUE-funded pilot. Money would be used for the following: to spend a lot of time planning for the conference (only need paid time for this once); to pilot the conference; to gather data on the piloting to see if it is educationally worthwhile
 - Other possible sources of soft money to be tapped are: Dean's grants, Senior Assignment money
 - We should look for hard money sources right away, and we should consider funding post-2008 conferences with undergraduate student fee
4. Next steps:
 - Explore possible sources of hard money (Puchner will do that)
 - Plan Inquiry conference 2008
 - Talk to other programs to verify interest in EUE application process and conference 2008
5. Decided that future meetings about the conference should be targeted toward individuals specifically involved in the grant, rather than the entire Diversity Project Planning Committee.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, October 25, 2006

Diversity Project
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Planning Group Meeting
April 23, 2007, 9am
Minutes

Participants:

Susan Breck, Ralph Cordova, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Donyell Roseboro, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Peter Theodore, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Recap of 2006-2007 Activities: Brown bags and EUE
 - Discussed the low attendance at a couple of events. Decided that professional development brown bag events should be combined with other organizations and activities (such as classes or C&I Brown Bag Series) for maximum participation and impact.
 - Updated participants about the EUE Proposal for the Inquiry Conference 2008.

2. Brainstorming about Future Vision: Possibility of developing a coherent, broad-based diversity initiative for teacher education (or SOE in general).
 - Discussed role of the Diversity Project as opposed to the role of a SOE Standing Committee dealing with minority and diversity issues. The committee decided to retain the Diversity Project's focus on professional development of teacher educators. It was felt that the Standing Committee role should be to collect data, analyze data, monitor the various diversity initiatives on campus (including the Diversity Project), and report to the SOE Dean.
 - A suggestion was made to change the name of the Diversity Project to something more reflective of its role. One suggestion was Diversity Education Project.
 - The committee discussed the question of whether curriculum related to diversity should be a part of the new Standing Committee, the current Academic Affairs Committee, or some other group. An advantage of making Academic Affairs responsible is that it sends the message that this is a mainstream curricular issue. However, it was felt that Academic Affairs was unlikely to be proactive on diversity issues.
 - It was suggested that a member of the Diversity Project could help draft the operating papers for the new standing committee, including development of a definition/statement of diversity for the purposes of the committee and the SOE. Breck will contact Michael Afolayan in this regard, since Afolayan had been one of the individuals who brought the new standing committee idea to Academic Affairs. Puchner will update Mary Weishaar on the ideas/decisions made at this meeting in regards to the Standing Committee.

- Current initiatives which would be monitored by the Standing Committee include:
 - a. Golden Apple
 - b. AAUW
 - c. PRIME
 - d. ALSO
 - e. Safe Zone
 - f. Inquiry Conference
 - g. Diversity Project

- 3. Next steps for the Diversity Project
 - The possibility of developing “modules” for course presentations such as those used by ALSO was raised. This is a method of educating faculty as well as students.
 - The possibility of linking to Golden Apple was discussed. Breck reported that they have expressed an interest in moving some activities downstate.
 - The need to make our professional development “meatier” and more structured was raised. Also suggested were an Elementary Education program session and a ½ day professional development session.
 - Puchner will schedule a meeting for the second week of classes in the Fall to develop this structure and an agenda for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Meeting was adjourned.

Excellence in Undergraduate Education Proposal

Ann Taylor
Laurie Puchner
Vicki Scott

January 2007

Project Summary

The proposed project is a Pilot SIUE Teacher Inquiry Conference that would share undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research in education, and provide workshops for attendees on topics related to diversity. Conference participants will be 400 undergraduate students in five different teacher education programs in three different departments. The goals of the project are to further the School of Education's goal of developing teachers who become life-long learners, researchers, and inquirers, and to enhance teacher education students' understanding of diversity.

The one-day pilot conference will take place in April 2008. The conference themes will be Inquiry and Diversity. There will be three types of events at the conference. The first will be a 45-minute keynote speech related to the theme of diversity. Participants will also participate in breakout Workshops on diversity, and in Student Project Sharing. The latter event will involve undergraduate and graduate students sharing research projects they have done and visiting and learning from the projects of others. We expect the Inquiry Conference to become an annual event that will gradually become self-sustaining through attendance fees paid by experienced teachers attending for professional development and using school districts funds.