

Diversity Education Project

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Minutes

Planning Group Meeting

October 30, 2007, 10am

Participants: Jenny Bolander, Susan Breck, Ralph Cordova, David DeWeese, Nicole Klein, Barbara O'Donnell, Laurie Puchner, Bill Searcy, Zsuzsanna Szabo, Ann Taylor, Melissa Thomeczek

1. Announcements:
 - Inquiry Conference planning is underway. Barbara O'Donnell and Jenny Bolander gave an update on progress.
 - Bill Searcy announced that the SOE has created an ad hoc committee to examine the results of past diversity-related task forces, including the recommendation of forming a standing committee.
 - Laurie Puchner announced that during a Fall 2008 sabbatical that she has applied for, she will be designing a study of teacher education students' understanding of racial issues as they move through their academic programs.
 - Ann Taylor gave an update on Addressing Learning through Sexual Orientation (ALSO) activities for the year.
2. Minutes from August 28: two amendments were suggested, and the minutes were approved as amended.
3. Ralph Cordova gave an update on the linguistic diversity brown bag session that he and Zsuzsanna Szabo have been working on with Seran Aktuna, Joel Hardman, and Howard Ramsby. The date for the event is February 13, 2007, 12-1:30pm. They would like to invite the entire SOE students and faculty. It was suggested that they contact Caroline Pryor so that it can be put on the agenda of the C&I Brown Bag Series. They would also like to do the event again in March as a campus-wide event. Zsuzsanna is taking care of reserving the room.
4. The second event planned at our previous meeting was a session on race, centered around an article. Susan Breck offered to handle that event, which is supposed to occur in Melissa Thomeczek's class. Susan will work with a CAS faculty member on this.
5. The third event previously outlined was a session on sexuality in early childhood education. Melissa Thomeczek reported that she, Peter Theodore, and Elizabeth Sherwood plan to do this event in the spring. Bill Searcy would like to participate as well. March was suggested as a good month for this.

6. Nicole Klein and Susan Breck described a sexuality session that they will be piloting in the spring in Susan's middle school class. It was suggested that they update the group on their progress with this at later meetings, and that they might be able to include the session as part of the April Inquiry Conference.
7. Formalization of the Diversity Education Project – several ideas were suggested toward this end, including:
 - Creation of a master calendar of events
 - Development of a website – Bill Searcy is currently working on website issues at the SOE level, and will work on getting permission for us to develop a site that links to the SOE website.
 - The Project could be a subcommittee of the future Standing Committee.
 - Ralph Cordova suggested that the Project could connect with the SIUE National Writing Project website that is now in progress. This was seen as a good way to connect the Diversity Education Project to formal programs. Ralph will explain the suggestion to the NWP web person, and Laurie Puchner will send information.
 - It was further suggested that the NWP could be used as an initial link that would lead to creation of a bigger, more formal, Diversity Education Project. The Project committee decided to put discussion of this issue on the agenda of our next meeting.
8. Next meeting will be held on November 27, 2007, 9:30-10:45am.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Puchner, October 31, 2007