I. Welcome/Opening Remarks - Bob Bliss

II. Review of September 14th Meeting Notes – Deborah Burris

Bob Bliss mentioned that Carl Hoagland’s name was misspelled. Lisa Busalacki will make the correction.

III. Welcome/Introductions

Deborah Burris introduced Ryan Barrett, the current interim director of the new Veterans’ Center on campus. Ryan is a veteran and a current PhD student in Political Science at UMSL. Ryan stated that the administration recognized that student veterans needed assistance in integrating into the campus community. He reported that on the national level, quite a few universities have veterans’ centers. However, in St. Louis, UMSL is the only university with a Veterans’ Center. The goal is to build UMSL’s reputation as a veteran-friendly school. Ryan also stated some of current veteran-related issues: creating and advocating for the veteran community, piloting a student veterans’ organization, helping veterans utilize their education and disability benefits, as well as increasing knowledge about the Veterans Affairs bureaucracy. Bob Bliss asked Ryan about the actual demographics of the 300 Veteran’s on campus. Ryan didn’t have this information, due to privacy reasons.

Linder Williams inquired about the staff in the Veterans’ Center. Ryan explained that he is part time, there is a quarter time staff member, and the office is looking to hire three more members. The goal is to have the center open all day and be fully staffed. Linder asked if there will be a staff member who specializes in counseling. Ryan said no, the staff will mostly help with access to educational services. He is aware of the counseling services on campus and has contact information to refer individuals if necessary. Deborah explained that Linder is the Director of Disability Access Services and their office would be a good place to refer military veterans.

Malaika Horne asked about helping veterans connect to employment, as well as helping staff become aware of post traumatic stress issues. The Veterans’ Center will offer employment services as well. The council offered support to Ryan in terms of connecting with faculty who are also veterans. Diversity Council members will want to know that Professor Terry Jones is the advisor for the organization.

Action items:
- Ryan provided his contact information: Clark Hall 211, extension 5705 and e-mail: rwbgyf@umsl.edu.
- Ribbon cutting for the opening of the Veterans’ Center will be December 7th, 2012.

IV. CCDC Enrollment & Retention Proposal – Gina Ganahl/Malaika Horne

Malaika Horne stated that Gina Ganahl tried to have a meeting with Mitch Hess but the meeting needs to be rescheduled.
Action items:
- Gina Ganahl and Malaika Horne will meet with Mitch Hess from the Cashier’s office.
- Gina Ganahl and Malaika Horne will draft a resolution and submit it to the CCDC.
- The resolution will be submitted to the chancellor.

V. CCDC Jubilee Activity – Raleigh Muns
Raleigh Muns updated the council on the Oral History/Echoes of UMSL project. He mentioned that he, Deborah Burris, and Chris Schetz had a meeting to discuss the project. He showed the council the consent form and a list of possible questions. He explained that there are different questions based on the individual’s relationship to UMSL i.e. student, faculty member, alum, etc. Raleigh will make different scripts for each category. He will also create a packet so that people can become familiar with the interview process. In the previous meeting with Raleigh, Deborah suggested that if possible, and with permission, pictures could be taken of those interviewed. The Roll Out and other campus events will be used as recruiting events for the project to gather interviewee information and to set up interview dates. The interviews will be posted on the university archives site. The actual exhibit will be pictures of those interviewed along with audio excerpts.

Bob Bliss stated that the Honors College has an independent study requirement. He suggested that the Echoes of UMSL project could benefit from this requirement in a partnership. Bob is willing to recruit students for the project to do interviews and write reports on the data. Bob stated that independent study courses generate income for the university, and hoped that might help justify purchase of needed equipment for this oral history project. Steven Brockman reported that students want more hands-on experience and the project would be a great opportunity to fill that need.

Malaika Horne asked about recruitment strategies and suggested contacting Greek organizations, alumni chapters, and other campus units. She also suggested creating more questions related to diversity and uniqueness, i.e. what neighborhood did you grow up in? Veteran’s status? High school? Raleigh wants to be sure that he receives contacts through personal referrals on a volunteer basis to keep the referrals professional and less labor intensive.

Action Items:
- Members should forward names and contact information for potential participants to Raleigh Muns at muns@umsl.edu.
- The council will send any revisions and suggested questions to Raleigh.
- Lisa Busalacki will assist Raleigh Muns.
- The Roll Out for the Jubilee is February 1, 2013.

VI. UMSL/Missouri S&T Climate Assessment – Deborah Burris
Deborah Burris explained that the UMSL Climate results were given to the campus community by Sue Rankin on November 1, 2012. The next task is for the CCDC to create a plan of action to address the primary challenges from the survey results. She said that one option is to host a retreat to focus on the results of the survey. Deborah explained that Sue suggested the council look at other assessment tools/additional data that have been done for the UMSL campus community to compare the findings. Deborah mentioned other works such as the presentation by Alan Byrd on enrollment, as well as COACH. Bob mentioned that UMSL has done research in the past on student success rates and the information should be available to the council.
Malaika Horne suggested the council start to address the issues now, to keep momentum on the projects. Malaika stated that the results from the study indicated two groups least satisfied with UMSL’s climate were people of color and LGBQ individuals. The council discussed bringing on new members.

Benjamin Torbert explained how Faculty Senate is divided into twenty sub-committees. He suggested that the council can be selective in deciding which chair of which committee would most benefit the goals of the CCDC. Bob Bliss suggested the chairs of the various colleges’ courses committees. He also suggested a review of the Diversity Courses as the requirements were written in the 1970s.

The council agreed to solicit a member from each of the following groups: non-exempt and exempt staff, service maintenance, staff association, human resources, faculty senate, international studies, LGBQ, and athletics. Jamie Linson was recommended as a representative from Safe Zone, JoAnn Wesbrook from human resources and Farida Jalalzai from Political Science.

Deborah Burris suggested that the council have a meeting specifically for addressing climate study next steps. She also suggested choosing three goals to initiate and accomplish in the next year. The council agreed to schedule a meeting before final exams. A possible date is November 30th, 2012.

Action Items:
- Lisa Busalacki will create Doodle Poll for the subsequent Climate Study meeting/check date.
- Bob Bliss and Benjamin Torbert will recommend to the council who would be a good member from faculty senate.
- A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the next steps.

VII) CCDC Retreat- Carl Hoagland
Carl Hoagland was not present. The retreat will be a way to delve deeper into the climate study results.

Action Items:
- A committee will be formed to work on the project.
- The committee will submit a list of possible speakers, partners etc. to the CCDC.
- A date needs will be selected.

VIII. Announcements
- Raleigh Muns announced that a Starbucks will be opened in the Thomas Jefferson Library after Thanksgiving.
- Bob Bliss asked the council for help on behalf of the Honors College. The Honors College received a donation in the name of Jim Doyle, a former professor of philosophy, social justice advocate, and interim Dean of the Honors College (’96 and ’97). The family donated a total of $10,000 to be used by students for projects on social justice issues. There is a lack of students who want to do independent projects. Bob asked for the council’s help in recruiting Honor’s College students for the effort.
- Benjamin Torbert gave an explanation of a program at Mississippi State that works with first generation students. The student is paired with a faculty member who acts as a mentor to help the student through school. He asked if there was a program similar to this at UMSL and there currently is not. Steven Brockman spoke about the UMSL campus program “First Year Experience” and explained that the program is currently being reorganized. He also mentioned two other UMSL programs: Emerging Leaders and Advanced Leadership.

VIII. Upcoming meeting dates
- February 8, 2013
- April 12, 2013