

Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Council
April 8, 2015 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
101 Woods Hall

Members present: Deborah Burris, Bob Bliss, Lisa Busalacki, Charlotte Petty, Meg Naes, Quincy Jones, Yan Tian, Tony Rosas, Chris Dames, Alan Byrd, Jim Craig, Kat Riddler, Linder Williams, Joann Westbrook, Maria Bologh, Jonathon Lidgus, Sandy Morris

I. Welcome/Opening Remarks-Deborah Burris

Deborah Burris welcomed all members in attendance.

II. Cameron Roark

Cameron introduced Missouri House Bill 104 to the council. Cameron said that the bill will allow religious groups (including student organizations on campus) to discriminate against LGBTQ individuals (and other protected categories in the UMSL discrimination policy) due to the groups' religious rights. He explained that the Student Government Association (SGA) wrote a resolution to oppose the bill. Discussion about the bill ensued. The council agreed to support the SGA in any way possible to oppose the bill.

III. Guest Speaker-Alan Byrd

Deborah Burris welcomed Alan Byrd. Alan thanked the group for the opportunity to speak. Alan presented the group with updates, current trends, and possibilities for the UMSL retention, enrollment and graduation rates. He spoke about the following topics:

- Trends for minority, first generation, international and transfer students.
- The need for more recruitment efforts and the lack of funding for these positions as well as a lack of funding for scholarship/aid for UMSL students.
- The graduation and application rates/numbers for UMSL.
- How GPA and SAT score impact student success.
- The demographics, particularly the low SES characteristics, of UMSL students.
- The discount rate at UMSL.
- The diminishing standing of commuter colleges and the demand for the full college experience by applicants.
- The current trends for Missouri high school graduates, the struggling Saint Louis Public School system and the impact on the GPA and ACT scores of UMSL applicants.

IV. Diversity Action Plan (DAP)

Diversity Advertising

Sandy Morris shared with the group the minutes from a meeting she attended with Deborah Burris, Lisa Busalacki, Bob Samples, Jackie Schlarman and Jonathon Lidgus. She stated that a link to the CCDC diversity calendar will be added to the calendar of campus events. Sandy indicated that Bob is checking into who owns/operates the digital signing

around campus. She also presented the CCDC logo (that she designed) to the group. The group approved the logo.

Diversity Awards

This group did not present at this meeting.

Diversity Courses

Lisa Busalacki shared that she worked with Kat Riddle of *The Current* to possibly advertise the courses that would fulfill the undergraduate requirement for cultural diversity. Lisa indicated that the fees for the newspaper were out of the budget so a poster was created and posted around campus to make the students aware of the cultural diversity courses.

V. Announcements

- Deborah announced the upcoming National Youth Summit for April 16 & 17, 2015.

VI. Upcoming Meeting Dates

- May 8, 2015 @ 2:30 PM.

Appendix A.

Greeting and Welcome -- Deborah Burris, Director and Chief Diversity Officer

Introduction to Interfaith Partnership and the Presenters -- Dr. David Mehl, Interfaith Partnership

Questions to Presenters for Reflection:

- 1) Share a distinguishing feature of your faith tradition.
- 2) Share an experience when you felt a deep sense of “awe”.
- 3) What are some of the misperceptions about your faith that you face on a regular basis?
- 4) What would you hope for on a university campus that would make your academic experience successful and comfortable from your faith perspective?
- 5) Share one link or resource for persons who’d like to learn more about your faith tradition.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

Closing Thoughts