Graduate Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2016

5PM

Center for Teaching Conference Room

In attendance: Brielle Harbin, Mia Keey, Erica Shannon, Rebecca Levinson, Briana Perry, Richard Blissett, Justin Hua, and Terrance Dean

Absent: Leah Samples, James Dennis, Francesca Walker, Sara Green

Minutes by: Justin Hua

Minutes edited by: Richard Blissett

1. Housekeeping
   1. One GDI committee member will be on point to compile D&I related events on campus.
      1. List function on website
      2. Will function to help us in our general awareness of events that happen around campus far enough in advanced
   2. Resources section of the website
      1. Perhaps we can start selectively including articles that we read?
      2. Looking to delegate to more than 1 committee member?
      3. <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/iicc/resources/diversity/> -- as a reference?
      4. Perhaps propose articles that are “hallmark-caliber” be listed as permanent items on this resource list
   3. Need a few more bios for GDI homepage
2. Campus partner updates
   1. Lambda (student org that is available to queer students, lots of affinity groups, LGBTQI life calender)
      1. Primarily a social body
      2. Just now started activism branch, involved 2 programs
         1. Pride Week, March
         2. Post-Carol Swain’s 2nd recent incident
   2. Chris Purcell
      1. EdD Peabody student, and director of KC Potter Center
      2. They do a LOT of programming, but they’ve also been involved with
         1. Gender-neutral housing initiative
         2. All-gender bathroom initiatives – approved by GSC
         3. CFT teaching guide – trying to get a video of trans students talking about experience
            1. Pronouns trainings
         4. Trying to institute code update to have accessible bathroom in 1st floor of every new/renovated building
         5. Trying to get it so trans students can put preferred name on ID
         6. Hormone therapy coverage for trans community members at Vandy = done
            1. Working on surgical coverage
      3. What kind of help do they need?
         1. When these things are successful, there’s buy in from major student groups
         2. It’s hard to get out information and then also get it back for students
   3. Marcy Melvin
      1. Hard to determine what grad/international student needs are
   4. GDN
      1. Announced our committee
   5. Andre Churchwell
      1. Will meet with Richard and Brielle soon as Admin Asst connects them
   6. Hill
      1. Seeking opportunities to partner with CDO Hill
   7. Other potential campus partners to contact?
      1. Mark Wallace
      2. Go-STEM graduate students?
      3. Connect with Frank Dobson and update with GDI work
   8. Perspectives Committee
      1. Working on some things, things in motion
   9. Action Committee
      1. Details TBD
3. GSC Survey
   1. 3 big parts:
      1. Campus Life
      2. Student Health Insurance
      3. Mental Health
   2. This level of outreach hasn’t been done before
   3. Discussion of incentivizing completing the survey
   4. Committee will further edit and make comments/suggestions via Google Doc
4. Mental health needs of graduate students
   1. Dialogue about the implications of the survey
5. Communicating out work with GSC general body
   1. Ongoing discussion, still flushing out ideal method for information sharing/updates
6. CDO Hill Collaboration
   1. Discussion about co-sponsoring an event with CFT and CDO targeting graduate students
   2. Discussion of a timeline and potential date for graduate student town hall
      1. Perhaps late March/April
      2. Beginning of April?
7. Food for future meetings
   1. <https://www.jamaicawaycatering.com/our-menu.html>