GDI Committee Meeting

Black Cultural Center

September 27, 2017

Attendees: Ali (Religion), Brittany (Post Doc), Stacey (Sociology), Moyo (Environmental) , Michael (Religion), Chelsea (Environmental), Jenna (Higher Ed Policy)

* Introductions and welcome new committee members
  + How Committee Works
    - Informal meeting once monthly
    - Working from set of recommendations from Chancellors Diversity Committee
      * Working on gap between rhetoric and action
      * Meeting with faculty and administration from across university and other university
    - Open to tailoring efforts to needs and desires of students
    - Ali and Stacy co-chair committee
    - Happy to have additional members join throughout year
    - Committee is work-based
    - George Hill’s retired and other turn over so we really need to build those relationships with administration
* Review our committee’s priority work areas
  + Review of report section that includes graduate student specifics
  + Top five areas of work
    - VU EDGE recruits and retains graduate students of color. Committee wrote a grant for increasing the funding for Dean Brunson and they used the proposal to lobby for extra funding. Not just a one-off increase in funding
    - Bring an awareness to social ramifications of GRE scores. GRE is more predictive of race and sex than success in graduate school. Working on eradicate and replacing GRE… but replace it with what?
      * First called schools that don’t use the GRE. What are their admission processes like? Easier to move through this department by department. Not just about removing GRE, but also how to promote diversity and holistic admission processes.
      * Then Dean Wallace asked for more data. Committee meet with deans and directors across campus. Committee wants to remain neutral and represent students.
      * Meeting with DGSs in October. Susan Patrick help develop survey that was forwarded to DGSs.
      * Right now, the Graduate School requires the GRE for all students. One program asks their students to put “N/A” for the GRE scores.
      * IGP program is saying that they are not going to require it! This a big deal if a STEM field does it.
      * But what does success mean? Most like it is based on degree completion in a certain amount of time.
        + What about teaching? What about publications?

Maybe we should talk about the difficulties of different metrics of success. Do we create a new metric? Do we combine metrics? How does this affect ranking?

Maybe we should look at people/places that do good mentoring.

Internal or external metrics of success.

Julie Posselt…”Inside graduate admission”… Oct 18th 3-4pm at Peabody.

* + - Introduction or orientation section through PCC that is sensitive to diversity. Trying to create synergy between CSW and student heath.
      * Recruitment and retention goes together. So we need to use PCC to support underrepresented groups.
* Updates on the very exciting work that happened over the summer
  + PCC and holistic admissions processes
* Next Steps
  + Internal committee needs
    - Note taker
    - How to schedule monthly meetings… Whenisgood poll
      * 3rd week of the month, TUE, WED, THURS
    - Mental Health Bill of Rights
    - Meeting with Dean Wallace
    - DGS Oct 17th