



MINUTES

LSUA Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee

2/23/2021 8:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Dr. Cynthia Thomas

In Attendance

Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. John Rowan, Deron Thaxton, Dr. Abbey Bain, Dr. Shonu Nangia, Dr. Jessica Ringo, Dr. Cynthia Thomas, Donald Collins, Daniel Manuel, Rhonda Barr (Proxy for Monica Aguilera), Destiny Harrison, Bryan Jackson, Chancey Slider

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM

Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Position

The Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position was advertised over the winter break and we have quite a few candidates that applied. Many of them are exceptionally qualified and range from many different backgrounds and locations. The committee interviewed 8 candidates from various backgrounds and the next step is for the committee to choose who will move forward for the next round of interviews. The committee had brief discussion on whether to do second round Zoom interviews or offer on campus interviews. The committee also discussed possible open presentation forums. Our goal is to select a candidate by the end of March and possibly sooner.

Women's History Month Planning Discussion:

We have some events already planned for Women's History Month in March such as "Take Back the Night". We will have a Zoom presentation featuring a special guest speaker on the Quad followed by a march around campus. We want this event to be as interactive and memorable as possible. We also plan to have a clothesline project for members of campus to create t-shirts with survivor of assault quotes on them to hang up. During homecoming week, we have invited community partners to come to campus and set up booths on the Quad. The committee had a brief discussion regarding other possible events.

Student Survey Review:

The committee reviewed the proposed final draft of the student survey and made some minor changes and additions for clarity and opportunities for more detailed feedback. Dual enrollment students will be excluded from the list of survey takers since they are minors and may need parental consent to complete the survey. SGA will be sending the survey out to students sometime this week.

Discussion on Faculty Training Regarding Classroom Materials That Include Outdated, Explicit, Racist, or Insensitive Text:

Some students have mentioned explicit, outdated, racist, and insensitive language in texts and primary sources used in courses. The committee discussed a way to work with our faculty on language sensitivity and encouraged conversations with students to address insensitive language in texts and inform them on what is appropriate for classroom discussions before explicit material is used. The committee had a brief discussion on ways that we can go about offering support such as trainings and presentation forums. Daniel Manuel plans to get some students involved to help define issues as the first step in this process and then come up with multi-step plan for addressing the issues.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 30th.
