Multicultural Student Center Committee  
March 12, 2009  
1:30 p.m., Chapman Regents Room  

Meeting Summary  


Guests: Kate Coffaro, Shannon Byrne Irwin, Kathy Litzau  

Fall 2009 *Myriad* – Victoria  

Planning for the fall 2009 *Myriad* is currently underway. If there are any suggestions for articles and profiles, please let Victoria or Linda know.  

Updates  

- **Diversity Career Day** (Victoria): About 1,700 students, alumni, and community members attended the event. There were 86 employers present to talk to prospective employees. As a kick-off event for WISN’s Project Economy, the event was widely publicized throughout the Milwaukee community and beyond. WISN was on campus to conduct interviews early in the morning, as well as during the event.  

- **Climate Survey** (Michael P.): By the end of this semester, there may be 3-4 opportunities for conversations about climate on campus. A series of meetings – some open ended and some focused sessions – will be held to discuss the survey results and next steps. Even though over 70% of survey respondents are satisfied on campus, more than 25% are not satisfied.  

- **MPDD with Direct Supply** (Linda): The Multicultural Professional Development Day on February 27 went well. Of the 22 students submitted complete application forms and resumes, 16 were at the program. All of them stayed until the end for one-on-one coaching sessions with the Direct Supply staff. It seems a lot of students were not able to participate because of class schedule conflicts on Fridays. This issue will be discussed at the debriefing meeting with Direct Supply next week. If there are other suggestions to improve the program, please let Linda know.  

- **Applied/Admitted Data** (Linda): Data as of March 9, 2009 on numbers of students applied and admitted to UWM for fall 2009 were distributed. Data showed that, while the total application was down 5.1%, the students of color applications were up 7.2%. Both the total and students of color new freshman net admits were down by 12.3% and 6.2%, respectively.
Love United Week: Celebrating Diversity - Linda

Information was distributed on Multicultural Student Coalition’s Love United Week, which is a series of events during the week of March 30 through April 3 celebrating diversity. There is a theme to each of the events:

- Theatre is on Monday featuring Faces of America
- Education is on Tuesday featuring Steve Birdine
- Voice is on Wednesday featuring People Power Tour
- Film is on Thursday featuring Gaamiinigooyang (and discussion with Dr. Cary Miller from the History Department)
- Networking social, Rendezvous, is on Friday.

Please spread the word and support these events.

Honors College – Kate Coffaro and Shannon Byrne Irwin

The Honors College (HC) is not denying any applicants this year. Those who are not eligible will be in the program, but will not be able to attend honors courses until they become eligible. A total of 94 applications were received from the fall 2009 new freshmen.

This year’s NFO will be a bit different as well. HC will be talking to students about the program and scholarships. Four-year tuition scholarships (totaling $100,000) are available for new freshmen. Scholarships for currently enrolled students are also available.

In addition to scholarships, HC benefits include:
- Priority registration and class selection
- Honors seminars
- Study abroad opportunities
- Senior honors research, project, and thesis opportunities

Kate and Shannon will provide names of honors students to the various multicultural offices.

Athletics – Kathy Litzau

Athletics is interested in the recruitment and retention of student athletes. They can utilize help from all multicultural offices. Nelson is already working very closely with the Athletics to help African American and other athletes.

Athletics offers an Academic Advising Center that has a life skills component. In addition, the SAAC (Student Athlete Advisor Committee) discusses student issues and offers educational workshops, such as resume writing, time management, etc. To comply with the NCAA rules, coordinators have to make sure that athletes’ academic needs are met.

Multicultural offices should talk to athletes about services after they are identified, preferably early in the semesters, and not wait until they walk into these offices looking for help. There are
a total of 15 sports at UWM. Kathy will email Linda with the number of students of color in these sports.

If there are any questions or concerns on students who are not recruited by coaches (i.e., other students who want to join UWM teams), please contact Kathy for follow ups. Trial dates are not always publicized, but they can be shared. And because of our Division I status, some students may not qualify to compete at that level. Kathy’s email is kclitzau@uwm.edu and phone number is x3739.

Unit Reports

Edwin – RHC has developed an informational piece for the Latino community on how to apply to college. It’s in both Spanish and English.

Diane – Indian taco sale is on March 26. Flyers will be sent to everyone. KICK, a one-person performance about Indian issues, is on April 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Union Fireside Lounge.

Michael K. – Building Unity Conference is on April 24-26 on campus. Also, there are vacant positions in the Student Association.

Michael P. – U@UWM (overnight program for admitted students) is on April 8-9. Diversity Fellows Program has 90 applicants for 6 positions. They will be on campus this summer.