Multicultural Student Center Committee Meeting Summary
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
1:30 p.m., Bolton 196

Present: Edwin Maldonado, Victoria Pryor, Carla Cadet, Dao Vang, Celeste Clark, Linda Huang, Michael Knaapen

Climate Survey Update

Linda mentioned that the Diversity Leadership Committee has met. Provost Rita Cheng has charged the committee with reviewing the climate survey data, meeting with various groups, and engaging the campus in further discussion about climate issues.

To address the low student response rate, it is not likely that students will be re-surveyed. Everyone felt that planning student focus groups to obtain additional information on campus climate is a better alternative.

Multicultural Orientation/Welcome Working Group Update

This working group has met once. Linda presented a draft of the working group’s proposed program dates, location, and schedule. Suggestions included:

- Adding more student reps on the working group
- Targeting AOC and SSS students. Do they have their own orientation/welcome program?
- Checking with residence halls to make sure students do not miss out on dorm activities (on 8/27 and 8/28), e.g., rules and regulations, networking/social events, etc.
- Working with Welcome Week planning committee to collaborate or coincide with activities
- Using American Indian students as CAs
- Including breakout sessions with each ethnic office?
- Including new transfer students?
- Marketing - AISS will follow up with phone calls after sending invitation letters

CDC/Direct Supply Working Group Update

This working group has met once to plan a Multicultural Professional Development Day with Direct Supply, which will be held on Friday, February 27. Linda distributed a tentative schedule of activities for that day, and mentioned that help is needed to recruit students to attend the event.

As soon as flyers, website development, and application forms are completed, recruitment of students to attend this event will begin. Students must complete an application form and submit a resume or resume draft to participate in this program.

Application/Admit Update

Linda distributed a copy of the New Freshmen Applied/Admitted/Denied data as of January 5, 2009. Overall, students of color applications are up 6%, whereas applications from white students are down about 11% when compared last year’s data. The overall number of admits are
down about 21% as compared to last year. Beth Weckmueller indicated in another meeting that this is more of a processing issue, which will catch up eventually.

New enrollment management/recruitment initiatives include:
- Project Connect – calling prospective students in identified regions to increase applications.
- PantherPromise – offering UWM admission to students who participated in a selected number of precollege programs based on certain academic and other criteria.
- Application fee waiver – 260 fee waiver vouchers were given out during the 2008 UWM Open House; 60% applied and 20% of them were students of color.
- HTML email blasts to applicants and admitted students. Campus is also exploring creation of blogs about current student life at UWM, and Facebook (and maybe MySpace) pages for admitted students to join. These efforts are designed to build a sense of community by connecting admitted students to UWM.

Dao would like to help with contacting incomplete applicants. He will contact Beth Weckmueller to make sure that such efforts are coordinated.

**Spring 2009 Meeting Dates/Times?**

It was suggested that spring 2009 meetings be moved to second Thursdays of each month at 2:30 p.m.

**Unit Reports/Announcements**

Carla – Union Sociocultural Programming calendar will be available next week. Upcoming events include:
- Social Justice Retreat is on March 6-8. Registration is now accepted.
- Celebrating the Dream: Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is on January 29 at noon in the Union Ballroom.
- Lessons from Little Rock Nine with Dr. Terrence J. Roberts is on February 5 at 7 p.m. in the Union Wisconsin Room.

Michael – Inquired about the multicultural master’s and PhD students and whether or not there is a multicultural graduate student group on campus. Response: There is a Black Graduate Student Alliance, but graduate students tend to be too busy; many have full time jobs.

Dao offered to help if Michael wants to get in touch with multicultural students in the future.