Multicultural Network Meeting Summary  
Thursday, April 17, 2014  
9-10:30 a.m., Bolton 196

Present: Patricia Najera, Cheryl Ajirotutu, Diane Amour, Gracelda Estrada, Alejandra Lopez, Dao Vang, Warren Scherer, Felipe Rodriguez, Victoria Pryor, Claudia Guzman, Linda Huang, Kelby Spann, Gaby Dorantes, Susan Fields

Brief Updates – Cheryl

- **Carnegie Classification:** Submitted on April 14th. It enabled the campus to look at community engagement centrally, and facilitate an emerging conversation on UWM’s core values. UWM will know by January 2015 if it will receive this classification.

- **Lawton Scholars Program:** This year’s program built an infrastructure and support for students with at least a sophomore standing, 2.25 and above GPA, and financial needs.
  - About 245 students received increases in spring 2014 (to a maximum of $4000 per year) for outstanding academic performance, which used up the remainder of the Lawton funds.
  - It is being proposed that Lawton’s high achieving students will become peer mentors next year. These 65 mentors will receive up to $4000 per year, depending on financial needs. Two graduate assistants will supervise the peer mentors.
  - There is a need to address identification and sense of belonging issues. Some students changed race/ethnic group to become eligible for the grant.

- **Study Abroad Diversity Scholarship:** There were 35 eligible applicants; 7 were interviewed and 7 received awards, including one funded by a school/college. Program will continue to look for other sponsors. Quotes and photos will be collected from the scholarship recipients.

- **AMSLC:** A total of 9 people attended the conference, including 8 students and 1 staff (graduate student); 2 cancelled and were replaced at the last minute. Half of the students presented at the conference.

- **Dr. PB Poorman Award:** Nomination deadline for this award is on April 25th. The award is open to LGBTQ communities and allies.

Multicultural Liaisons in Schools/Colleges – Alejandra

How can School of Business get connected with other multicultural programs on campus, e.g., connecting L&S undecided students to pursue business majors? How can students transition to the School of Business in a strategically and coordinated fashion? How can we help students shepherd through the process so they can navigate the system themselves?

Lengthy discussions pursued around these questions. Although opinions vary, it was suggested that the responsibilities should still rest on the students to talk to academic advisors in schools/colleges, and that advisors should not hold students’ hands ALL the time. The advisors can, however, provide the necessary tools and resources that will help students navigate the system.
Strategic Planning Access Diversity and Inclusion (ADI) – Warren
The synthesizing team will be putting all documents together, looking for themes and threads. Diversity is still important, focusing on faculty/staff and students – compositionally and not just numbers. A draft report will be available in May; some of its topics will include:

- Climate assessment;
- Cultural competency;
- Bullying; and
- Cultural opportunities for students – both in curricular and co-curricular areas.

M/D Issues and Concerns
This was a continuation of discussions from the last MN meeting on proposal submission, not being at the tables, lack of communication, etc.

- Diane brought up the issue of this year’s selection of common read book, The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. The book was written for a lower reading level, and included a lot of stereotypes about the American Indians. In addition, the American Indian faculty on campus were not consulted on the selection of this book. One of the issues is that we are not at the table when decisions are made. It was suggested that the common read experience should be nested in the Culture and Communities Program so it’s connected to the curriculum and classes, and not decided in a silo.
- If there are submitted grant proposals that impact multicultural students, it would be nice to know about it in the front end, rather than the back end. Warren stated that the Student Affairs encourages its staff to seek and submit big grant proposals. Patricia suggested forming a subcommittee to explore grant opportunities.
- There seems to be disconnect between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs (academic advisors). To facilitate this, Warren and Claudia will be Student Affairs’ liaisons with MN academic advisors.
- To improve the visibility and image of the multicultural offices, Warren suggested the creation of a one-pager with data (a collective voice) that tells stories about student successes and barriers.

2014-15 Meetings
Dao has agreed to chair the MN next year. It was suggested that MN meetings be held more often, e.g., three per semester with one in the summer to brainstorm and plan for the year. The summer meeting should be longer to include lunch!

Meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.