

College Diversity Roundtable
9/20/11 Meeting Minutes

Welcome- Norman Burnett, CDR Chair

Introductions

Welcome- Dean of the College Richard Feldman

- CDR charged to advise the Dean of the College on issues of diversity on campus.
- Place for students to come and talk about issues on campus- talk about the kind of things we can do to make campus a better place to live and learn, one of the real values of a residential college whose value comes from interacting with people. The diversity of the student body makes it a much richer and valuable place.
- Topics discussed in the CDR are vital for improving the quality of U of R and works only if groups are represented at CDR to share their point of view.
- Bring the news, issues back to your groups and make this a forum where we can talk about issues and propose new ideas.

CDR Overview- CDR Chair Norman Burnett, Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs

- CDR is charged to affirm the values of the college.
- Introduced committee structure- please sign up for a committee. All committees will have a student co-chair.
- Survey passed around- please propose topics for discussion for future meetings

Meliora Weekend- Ann Shields, Office of Alumni Relations

Meliora weekend on target to be the biggest ever with over 7000 registered at this point

- 45 events for students and alums including performances, academic groups, etc.
- Will have an OMSA student networking night co-sponsored by SALSA
- Saturday afternoon CDR program- Conversations about Diversity: then and now with a panel of students and alums
- BSU will host a panel, Pride panel, Community Conversation for alumni and parents
- Associate Director of Alumni affairs will be hired to work with affinity groups.

Communal Principles Project- Lydia Crews, Assistant Director, Student Activities

- CPP is an initiative coordinated by the Dean of Students to embed communal principles in UR culture: inclusion, fairness, respect, responsibility, freedom and honesty. This year will highlight respect

- Asking students to submit proposals for programs
- 9/25-9/26 Delta Upsilon is hosting the first program with Habitat for Humanity.
- Five grants of \$200 and four \$500 grants will be made available

Campus Climate Survey- Beth Olivares, Associate Dean for Diversity Initiatives in Arts, Sciences and Engineering

- Have done a survey twice since 2008
- Planned to do one every 2 years
- Re-evaluating the survey instrument- it is flawed, the questions can be confusing and push people to make assumptions about the college's views on diversity
- New person in the Dean's office looking at the survey or they may decide to use a new one.

Student Led Discussion by Andrew Moran - LBGTQ safety issues

- Senior week wine tour incident- a lot of drinking and negative behavior. Students were verbally harassed called faggot, general air of homophobia and harassment. Students felt threatened and worried that something was going to happen to them.
- Incident created a general worry about how safe students are on campus and how can we prevent this from happening again?
- How safe are LBGTQ students on campus when alcohol is used?
- Students suggested a campaign similar to the NBA ads against intolerance, a respect grant to fund a series of public service ads for campus broadcast, a support group, etc.
- New brochure from admissions (Joe Latimore will forward to CDR)
- Consider safe-space workshops and ideas about how to get students to lead initiatives.