

## College Diversity Roundtable Minutes 10/28/2009

Chair: Norman Burnett

Present: Estefany Angeles, Jessica Bohanon, Jonathan Burdick, Yanique Chin, Lydia Crews, Thomas Crews, Nora Dimmock, Richard Feldman, Jessica Guzman, Keirstin Hughes, Amy Lerner, Monica Miranda-Small, Ian Moore, Beth Olivares, Anthony Plonczynski, Sammy Robinson, Tamara Slater, Philippe St. Justice, Ashley Clarke, Madeline Cornell, Scott Strenger, Tori Matthews, Carlos Tejada

### Introductions

Richard Feldman

- Introduced new meeting format with topics for student discussion
- Would also like students to bring topics for discussion to the attention of the roundtable

Jackie Levine- Senior Associate Director of Study Abroad

- Gave a presentation: "Diversity Abroad: A Look at the National Dialogue"
- Not a lot of good data about the diversity of students participating in study abroad programs nationally
- 2007 – first Study Abroad expo in January highlighted the need for more outreach
- Presented a timeline of significant research/documents addressing underrepresentation in study abroad programs
- FFFF- Faculty, Fear, Family, Finances all contribute
- Diversity.com and Gilman Scholarships pivotal programs
- Students shared their opinions as to what some barriers might be at UR
  - Not market well in previous years
  - Students heavily involved in student groups and organizations can't spare the time
  - Some students plan either too early or too late – could SA reach out?
  - SA elections in the spring- can't be elected and go away in the fall
  - Leadership positions in SA can be a barrier
  - Many minority students are math and science majors and have strict schedules/requirements
  - Perceived financial barrier
  - Peer to peer mentoring could be a solution, as could major advising
  - Process to arrange study abroad is very time consuming
  - Students from low socio-economic status are very academically focused and may see it as an impediment to pre-professional programs.
  - Could be a very foreign concept for students and their families if they are the first member of the family to go to college.

### Students for Interfaith Action

- Would like to be part of CDR- their goal is to bring people of different faiths together as a political action group