

College Diversity Roundtable Minutes 04/28/10

Attendance: Norman Burnett, Richard Feldman, Kierstin Hughes , Scott Strenger, Nora Dimmock, Beth Olivares, Thomas Crews, Amy Lerner, Monica Smalls, Katherine Laureano, Ludovic Gonvalves, Leah Miller, Jennifer Moreno, Chris Bethmann

Norman Burnett- Chair:

- Last meeting of the year. Thanks to all for their involvement.

Introductions

Chris Bethmann- Native American Issues

- Student from Rochester, NY of Oneida & Mohawk decent
- Participated in a Native American program in elementary school and a Mohawk language class in high school, worked at Ganondagan as an interpreter during the summer
- Working with Joe Latimer from admissions. UR joined the Horizon's program which helps bring Native American students to college campus' – 100 students will be visiting in the fall (about half live on reservations)
- Good opportunity for us to increase Native American awareness on campus- there is an active Native American community in Rochester and they would be thrilled to have the opportunity to share Native American culture with us- RIT, FLCC and Nazareth all have special programs
- Possible programs on campus for Horizon's visit:
 - Get students together and host arts/crafts workshops, speakers, artists, dances, etc.
 - Incorporate Native American dancing with other dance groups on campus so it doesn't look like a show
 - When students come here they want to feel supported
- Suggestions for raising awareness on campus in general included: an SA group, partner with local organizations, partner with groups from other colleges, get community leadership involved.

SALSA Update

- Transitioned to E-Board
- Participated in College 101 in the Rochester Community to learn about financial aid, etc.
- Continue to communicate their support for a Latin American Studies major
- Work with Alumni
- Create programs for parents at Meliora weekend
- Become more involved with MSAB/ work with MSAB to make sure events don't conflict- encourage co-sponsorship
- Work with Latino Professional Alliance

Students for Interfaith Action Update

- New E-Board
- General recruitment goal: how to engage new students
- Co-sponsoring events with cultural groups
- Bring awareness of other religions but bring conversations about religion to campus – people are not comfortable talking about religion on campus
- Putting together more goals

SHADES Update

- “Sharing the History and Diversity of Students”- through SHADES students can reach out to others on campus
- Collaborate with SALSA, BSU, SBAI, FDI, etc.
- Diversity is not based on one aspect – your identity makes up what diversity is
- E-Board all rising juniors and sophomores- will help the group grow and transition
- Goal- more active, stronger group will provide insight on diversity on campus

PRIDE Update

- New E- Board with goal to get allies more involved
- Might change meeting format
- Would like to co-sponsor more events
- 40th anniversary at Meliora
- Safe Zone training will be undergoing a major transition with curriculum change and modular format
- Email safezone@rochester.edu for more details

SA-

- New leadership – Scott Strenger
- Committed to being a resource for students to improve campus community
- Happy to be a resource

Richard Feldman

- Thanks to all and Norm for chairing
- Positive year of growth- student centric, Discussion with Chris today an example that the roundtable is a one of the key groups that provides a forum for these ideas/ issues.
- Key part of the Roundtables responsibility is communication. Group representatives are present and in a position to represent the views of their groups and also to bring discussion back to those groups.
- Good luck on finals!