

College Diversity Roundtable

Meeting Minutes

01/31/12

Welcome - Norman Burnett, Chair

Overview of 2012 Black History Month Programming --- Sasha Eloi

- There is a full calendar of events available on the website.
- <http://www.rochester.edu/diversity/celebrations/blackhistory/index.html>
- The CDR is cosponsoring a Video Series with the Office of Minority Student Affairs every Thursday at Noon in Gleason.
- The CDR is also cosponsoring a talk "Signifying without Specifying" by Assistant Professor Stephanie Li on February 28th at 6:30 p.m.

Summary of MSAB Meeting with President Seligman --- Lecora Massamba

- The President suggested that MSAB meet with Dean Feldman to discuss recruitment and retention
- Creating and maintaining relationships with local colleges through the use of a shuttle – the President asked them to follow up on this suggestion with a letter to him.
- Talked about security and the services they provide
- Suggested that the President make a special announcement about his commitment to the Communal Principles Project and issues of tolerance
- Invited the President to OUR Night
- Dean Feldman agreed to talk to MSAB about recruitment and retention

Discussion of Proposal to Establish a Multicultural Center on Campus --- Dean Feldman

- A way to bring students in different groups together once a month
- Social events, mingling
- An extension of OMSA; a place for students to hang out and be themselves;
- A facility that could host events such as Tropicana, the OMSA Senior Dinner, OUR Night, and others
- Something like the Ruth Merrill Center, but for cultural groups
- Whatever it is, it needs to be extremely well-supported by the administration (not entirely clear who this refers to)
- It would need to be a place that attracted faculty as well, not just students
- Couches, a kitchen, TVs

- About culture, not race; a means to bring in people who might not identify with, say, BSU or SALSA
- A place that helps remove barriers between people and groups; for example, over music and food
- To share how we live
- A place that visually represents and affirms the institution's commitment to true diversity
- Spaces to study, to be social, to just hang out
- Open lots of hours like Gleason is (in terms of accessibility)
- Event-based v. club or conversation based?
- An extension of OMSA
- A place with classrooms init or nearby; perhaps faculty could hold office hours