Meeting of the Multicultural and Diversity Committee Of the Academic Senate  
Redwoods Community College District  
7351 Tompkins Hill Road, Room CA100  
883 W. Washington, Rm., Crescent City, CA 95531, Room E-3

Friday, February 6, 2015, 3:00pm. – 5:00 p.m.  
Present:  Deanna Herrera-Thomas, Dana Maher, Kristy Carlsen, Jacqui Cain, Dave Bazard, Sean Herrera-Thomas, Julie Raich  
Absent: Cindy Hooper

Public Announcements:  
No announcements were made.

Meeting Minutes  
The meeting minutes were unanimously approved without changes

Action Items:  No action items

Discussion
5.1 Student Equity Plan Activities
MDC Chair Deanna Herrera-Thomas reviewed discussions with the Senate Co-presidents regarding the role of the MDC in contributing to the Student Equity Plan and the Work Force in Hiring Plan. Dean Tracey Thomas (Co-Chair of SEP committee) was not present at the meeting, but Deanna indicated that discussions were ongoing to define the role of the MDC in contributing to activities.

5.2 Dialogue On Race
The MDC held a follow up discussion of a topic Dana Maher introduced at a previous MDC meeting. Dana described her discussions with Kintay Johnson (Assistant Director of EOPS) about the idea of holding a “dialogue on race”. Dana described how one approach may be to book a room, put up posters and facilitate the dialogue. Dana asked if the MDC wanted to take up the idea. Kintay Johnson attended this discussion and he described the background for the idea. He indicated that several students approached him about recent national events and the lack of discussion about these events at the CR campus. The students described a need to engage in dialogue and discussion. In addition, there was discussion about the need for underrepresented students to have a welcoming and safe environment for dialogue and learning. Kintay also described the recently formed Black Student Union. The MDC members discussed that there were two important issues: 1. A need to support underrepresented students, particularly African American students, who have come from different communities and navigating a significantly different setting (in terms of demographics, physical setting, attitude, etc) at CR. 2. A plan to hold regular events focusing on race. Discussion then centered on how an event (second item) would be organized and get started. Kintay indicated that one possible event would be a showing of a video (growing roses in concrete) by Jeff Duncan Andrade. The MDC agreed to pursue an event for the end of February. Kintay said the Black Student Union would help in promoting an event. Deanna said she would look into seeing if Jeff Duncan Andrade could either come to CR or be linked through a video connection. There was also mention that the newly updated CR calendar could be used to highlight historic dates relevant to underrepresented students. Dave Bazard offered to facilitate a African American History month display in the Humanities building.
5.3 **Book of the Year Event**
Jacqui Cain reviewed the Book of the Year contest at CR. The BOY committee has defined the contest as an artistic response (non-essay). The contest will be introduced in late February and then be promoted during the Sherman Alexie visit on March 5. There will also be a meeting with Sherman Alexie at 1130am on March 5 in the board room. The MDC will be invited to attend that event and act as judges for the contest. The actual judging and presentation of the contest will occur in April (at a date to be determined).

5.4 **Multicultural Heritage Calendar, Deanna Herrera-Thomas**
Deanna updated the committee on the CR calendar page. Events can be added to include a variety of important multicultural dates.

5.5 **Support for the Multicultural and Diversity Award, Tracey Thomas**
Tracey Thomas was not present at the MDC meeting, but MDC chair Deanna Herrera-Thomas reviewed her Feb 6 presentation at the Academic Senate. This was a discussion of the new criteria for the MD award. The item will come back to the Senate on Feb 20 as an action item (and be voted on).

5.6 **Workforce Equity in Hiring Plan (WEHP) List of Protected Courses, Deanna Herrera-Thomas**
Deanna reviewed the MDC’s role in identifying “protected courses” that would appeal to a diverse population of students (as defined in the WEHP). Deanna asked the MDC to review the previous list (to be provided) and determine if there are a couple of courses they see as being priorities for the “protected list”. Deanna indicated that they could be courses on the previous list or something that was not on the previous lists. The committee discussed some of the issues related to these courses. One issue was for courses in which there is not a full-time faculty to advocate for scheduling of the course. This appears to be the case with Native American studies. The MDC discussed ways in which Deans could be alerted to these courses so they get included in the 2-year scheduling process.

**Reports**

6.1 **Diversity Award Form**
This was discussed as part of discussion item 5.5, but chair Deanna Herrera-Thomas indicated that the new award form is going through the process of approval.

**Announcements**

7.1 Chair Deanna Herrera-Thomas introduced Tami Bighead(sp?) as a new member of the MDC. Tami teaches ESL for non-credit a new member to the committee.

7.2 MDC member Kristy Carlsen announced the guest speaker for the Latino film festival. He will present on the Cuban diaspora. Dates of the Latino Film Festival are March 3-5.

**Adjournment** – at 4:57pm.