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, November 21, 2014, 3:00pm. – 5:00 p.m.
Present: Deanna Herrera-Thomas, Dana Maher, Cindy Hooper, Jacqui Cain, Dave Bazard
Absent:, Julie Raich Kristy Carlsen, Sean Herrera-Thomas

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order at 3:05pm

Introductions and Public Comments: Committee Chair Deanna Herrera-Thomas reviewed aspects of the Brown Act Workshop she attended. She explained that attending meetings by phone requires that the location of the phone needs to be ADA accessible. Committee member Dana Maher described her efforts to establish a gender-neutral restroom and breastfeeding station. She asked the committee about appropriate administrative channels for pursuing these facility changes.

Approve November 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes – minutes from the November MDC meeting were approved without correction. Approved by consent (moved by Cindy Hooper, seconded by Dana Maher).

Action Items

Draft IV of the Multicultural and Diversity Award Nominee Support Form: To Support Changes to the Existing Form.
Committee Chair Deanna Herrera-Thomas described the award support form and the form describing the award process. She indicated where a few changes had been made. The committee approved of the changes. A motion was made to approve both documents (motion made by David Bazard, seconded by Cindy Hooper). The committee approved the documents unanimously.

Discussion

Multicultural and Diversity Award Revitalization: Deanna Herrera-Thomas updated the committee on efforts to revitalized monetary award. Administrative liaison Tracey Thomas will take this to the administration.

Relationship Assault Handbook: Gender Neutral Version: Deanna Herrera-Thomas thanked Jacqui Cain for her role in reformatting the document to make it more gender neutral. Deanna has communicated with the president about addressing other concerns. The President will take it to Ron Waters (safety comm. chair) and Gary S. to review for legal aspects.
Multicultural Student Center: ways to support the ASCR to create a more user-friendly space for student events and meetings: Deanna Herrera-Thomas reported on the condition and access of the Multicultural Center. It currently has a locked entry and nothing that identifies the space. It is not furnished for activities and appears to be under utilized. The center and the activity of populating the center is listed in the Student Equity Plan, but there are not current activities. Committee member Dana Maher reported that Sociology had plans to use the center for student projects, but the uncertain nature of access prevented this from being carried out. This could be a venue for cross-cultural events. The committee discussed possible options for increasing access and use of the space. Deanna Herrera-Thomas indicated that she would discuss some of these ideas with the Associated Students (ASCR).

LINK Event Support: Deanna announced the Dec 4 event of a film about North Korea and a related discussion. There is enthusiasm from the LINK students and others involved in this event, however, the funding has been problematic. Deanna said she was working with ASCR and the Vice President to help resolve issues with the funding. The funds are needed to help pay for advertisements and other costs.

Overview of Strategic Equity in Hiring Plan: Deanna Herrera-Thomas described the intent of the Strategic Equity in Hiring Plan and the role the MDC had in both creating the plan and the role of the MDC in some of the initiatives described within the plan. Committee member David Bazard mentioned that the midterm report to the ACCJC (October, 2014), that there was a statement that the title of this plan had been changed to the Work Force Equity Plan. One of the initiatives of the Strategic Equity in Hiring Plan (or Work Force Equity Plan) is for the MDC to indicate courses that would tend to attract a more diverse faculty. The plan initiative is to give these courses extra consideration for scheduling. Committee Chair Deanna-Herrera Thomas provided a previous list of classes that had been given this consideration. She indicated that the committee should review the list and determine if additional courses should be added, and if all of the course listed in the past are consistent with the goal of this initiative. The Committee agree to review the list of classes.

Reports

Multicultural Heritage Calendar: Committee member Cindy Hooper discussed the “Events Calendar” and how it can be used to promote a school Heritage Calendar. The committee discussed how the calendar was linked on the main CR web page and provided some feedback about labeling the calendar and associated web links.

Student Equity Plan Progress: Deanna Herrera-Thomas described meetings related to this plan and described how there are differences of opinion regarding the role of the MDC in the plan. The MDC agreed to continue discussion on this matter later due to lack of time at this meeting.

Announcements/Open Forum
No announcements were made.

Adjournment – at 5:02pm