

DRAFT 06/08/16

Minutes of the University Diversity Council Meeting

April 26, 2016

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., BMU 210

Present: Sarah Blakeslee, CC Carter, Teresita Curiel, Deanna Jarquin, James Luyirika-Sewagudde Jr., Michelle Morris, Melanie O'Connor, Chela Patterson, Tray Robinson, Aaron Thao, Eddie Vela, Joe Wills, Paul Zingg

Absent: Pedro Douglas, Dylan Saake, Paula Selvester

Guest Presenters: Susan Roll, Celeste Jones, Seema Sehrawat

I. Gather for lunch

II. March 24, 2016 UDC Meeting Minutes

J. Luyirika-Sewagudde Jr. made the motion to approve the corrected minutes, C. Carter seconded, and the motion carried.

T. Robinson noted that he received a call from a colleague at CSU East Bay about using our Council as a model for their campus.

III. Student Diversity Survey and Focus Groups

S. Roll and students from her graduate social work course presented the methods and results from their student focus groups related to diversity, equity and inclusion. A hardcopy of the Student Voices project was also provided to UDC members. While it was noted that there are specific spaces on campus where students feel safe and that their voices are valued (e.g., CCLC, GSEC), the need for additional support for our increasingly diverse student body continues. In particular, students noted the lack of diversity among the faculty and staff, their classroom experiences were difficult at times, and that racial, ethnic and gender studies programs are lacking. Lack of feeling connected to the Chico Experience was another theme that emerged.

Following the presentation a robust discussion ensued. It was recommended that the students present their findings to key stakeholder groups on campus (e.g., Chairs Council, Staff Council, deans, senate) before the end of the semester. M. Morris and T. Robinson will coordinate these presentations on behalf of the UDC. In addition, this presentation would be valuable for new faculty to hear at their fall orientation as well as new employee orientations throughout the year. All agreed that the student voices represented in this work contribute greatly to our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and that cultural competency training among faculty across disciplines is warranted.

IV. **Digital Storytelling**

C. Jones and S. Sehwat presented on digital storytelling. They provided background on their training in this method, shared examples from their work to date, and gave an overview of how it could be used to enhance the work of the UDC. All agreed that this could be a powerful tool to engage stakeholders in our work. M. Morris and T. Robinson will follow up with S. Sehwat and C. Jones regarding providing a session for UDC members to create their own digital stories. This may expand further as resources allow.

V. **UDC ET Updates**

A. University Strategic Plan Diversity Priority

The Academic Senate voted unanimously to endorse the new University Strategic Plan Priority on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

B. Annual Diversity Report

T. Robinson and Workgroup 1 members are drafting the first Annual Diversity Report. He will submit the Report to UDC members for their feedback before it is released.

C. UDC Acknowledgements

T. Robinson highlighted UDC achievements this past year and acknowledged members for their work and commitment to inclusive excellence and student success.