

PCAAD March 23, 2011

Attendance: E. Abreu, T. Caldwell, M. Cartagena, M. Cascarano, M. Coleman Carter, M. Colón, C. Cottle, D. Davis, T. Dean, A. Desante, G. Giardinieri, H. Haines, R. Howell, A. Jeffers, L. Jenkins, L. Lemley, D. Lorenzo, C. Matteis, A. McMath, D. McMorrin, C. Meneghin, B. Milton, O. Rodriguez-Srednikci, T. Seaboch, K. Smith, L. Smith, E. Thorpe, L. Torres, R. Wesolowski, L. Whitaker, R. Young, S. Yu

I. Welcome:

Meneghin called meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Matteis made a motion that the February 2011 minutes be approved; Yu seconded. The minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

Constitution

Meneghin thanked the Constitution committee for its work this year. The initial review was done in February, and the required 15-day timeline was met. There were no changes received. Meneghin motioned for a vote, with the Commission approving the final amended Constitution. It will be forwarded to President Cole for approval.

III. Sub-Committees:

Education

The Committee did not report.

Mentoring

Abreu reported that the committee met to look at the timeline and to create the focus groups. There will be four focus groups: 2 for staff, 1 for faculty and librarians, and 1 for students. The Committee looks to re-launch the mentoring questionnaire in Fall 2011, with evaluation and final wrap-up in Spring 2012. The Committee will report on the trends and themes from the initial questionnaire at the May 24th Advance.

Recruitment and Retention

The Committee has not met. It will present data at the April meeting for review.

Sponsorship

Meneghin updated the Commission on plans for Affirmative Action Day, which was postponed to Fall 2011, due to the need to amend and finalize the Constitution this year. The Executive Committee hopes that the Fall 2011 program will increase participation, such as attendance by the Freshman Experience classes. The Executive Committee proposes a well known keynote speaker, however this will require financial support from numerous campus organizations. Linda S. proposed Soledad O'Brien, CNN anchor and book author. Linda will work with Ms. O'Brien's agent in order to negotiate the \$15,000 initial quote and will update the Commission. Meneghin motioned that this proposal move forward to finalize a contract to begin obtaining co-sponsorship. Motion was approved.

IV. New Business

Annual Advance

The Annual Advance will be held on campus on Tuesday, May 24th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Location TBA. Meneghin requested that Commission members reach out to their campus constituencies for agenda items/issues that the Commission should consider discussing.

The Sub-committees should also discuss their initial focus items for the next year.

Numerous items were mentioned by members for consideration. Among these are:

1. Couples in a civil union pay taxes on medical benefits- how to compensate for the extra fee
2. Maintenance of new buildings – privatization?
3. Diversity in hiring practices for maintenance jobs in new dorms
4. Harassment of minority students by on-campus or off-campus police
5. Workplace bullying
6. Stigma issues surrounding mental health
7. Increasing PCAAD visibility on campus (attendance at programs)
8. Cult awareness issues on campus
9. Sensitivity and diversity training in order to better assist students
10. Safe space training across campus
11. Issues regarding the implications with the actions police take with students in trouble (arrest vs. warning)
12. Education on the PCAAD's mission to campus offices

V. Announcements

Abreu announced that a lactation room has been identified in College Hall.

Meneghin indicated that she has not received an update on the Panzer and Chapin Hall automatic doors request, nor on the gender neutral bathrooms. Coleman Carter informed the members that as part of the Student Center renovation plans, a third-floor gender-neutral bathroom is approved.

A reminder email will be sent to members to seek issues and concerns from our constituencies to discuss and finalize at the April 6th meeting.

Yu announced the Asian Heritage Month flagraising at noon. There will also be a fundraising event, with a \$2,000 goal.

Meneghin encouraged members to attend the May 24th Advance, where present issues will be discussed and the sub-committees will finalize their agenda items for next year.

VII. Abreu motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Cottle; Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón