Truman State University

Diversity Committee 2016-2017 End of Semester Report

Chair: Cory Hogan

Members: Luis Ortiz, Jessie Dias

**Yearly Synopsis**:

This year on the Diversity Committee our committee was created later in the year than we usually do, therefore there was a late start to the year. In the beginning of the year I approached a number of amount of the diverse organizations such as MAC, MAP, PRISM, and Disability Services.

**Useful Information:**

Room lottery: This will happen towards the end of the Fall semester which is huge for planning Diversity Week. When planning the week it is okay to not know the setup or the anticipated attendance for the event as it can be changed throughout the semester, but make sure you get the room and just entitle it Diversity Week.

Sodexo Catering: If you want any kind of sodexo catering ensure that the order

 We tackled many problems on campus and they are as follows:

**Handicap accessible Doors:**

We first tackled this by getting in contact with disability services and locating where all of the doors with the buttons are located on campus. Come to find out that Physical Plant does all of the res-life buildings, and disability services takes care of all other buildings on campus. They check them bi-monthly but they appreciated the help of reported buttons that are not working. They looked forward to working with us further on any project they need help with and she took note that senate is willing to work with them on anything.

**Meetings with MAC, Dean Gilchrist**

When our committee getting into the swing of things we scheduled meetings to establish faces to the names and taking note of upcoming events that were happening with the respective organizations.

**Skeleton of a Writing to a Senator regarding Travel Ban**

We worked with a representative of the Kirksville Democrats to write a skeleton of a letter to a senator regarding the ban. As the members of our committee were not informed as to how to properly write a letter to a senator, therefore it was a learning experience for the committee. Upon listening to Dr. Sue thomas talk about  Truman at the Capital, we restructured the letter with blanks for individual’s names.

**Diversity Week:**

Monday March 27th, 2017: MAC------- Brad Turnball gave a presentation on the Dangers of Political Abstention. His main point included: People need to be more open to talk about political topics in order to better education themselves on diverse opinions. He also tied his presentation to superheroes and comic books in order to relate his points effectively.

Attendance: 5

Tuesday March 28th, 2017: Partnering with the Muslim Student Association, comedian Danish Maqbool was brought to campus. He gave a great performance that tied to relevant issues in current events. It was met with great enthusiasm and helped to educate those who attended.

Attendance: 55

Wednesday March 29th, 2017: International Food and Dance Night. SUB Activities Room

This event was made possible by pairing with may diverse organizations like MAC, HALO, Namaste Nepal, Sigma Delta Pi, and Muslim Student Association. This is the second year that this event happened and was a big hit both years. Sodexo catered part of the event as well as the organizations bringing in food and if the had a dance that represented their culture, they could perform.

Sodexo catering: Must be sent in 2 weeks in advance. You must also get a food waiver request from the general manager of sodexo and turn in catering request forms to the operations manager.

Thursday March 30th, 2017: Sigma Delta Pi presents “The Travel Agents”

This was a documentary put on by sigma delta pi, the spanish honors fraternity, and the funding went through appropriations. The location was in VH 1416.

Attendance: 40

Saturday April 1st, 2017: Two SafeZone training sessions were held hosted by Megan Moore and Alicia Wolken, assisting in place of Joe Hamilton. The first session was held from 8:30-10:30 in SUB Georgian Room A (the second session was too). The goal of SafeZone training is to have a open discussion regarding any and all gender related topics. From this the individual who completes training would be better prepared to discuss and be a certified ally of the LGBTQ community.

Attendance: First Session 14

                   Second Session  11

**Inclusivity project:**

This was a project that was originally put on by Student Affairs where it incentivised for students to attend diverse programming on campus. After attending the event that was approved ny the program, the student must write a paragraph reflection and send to Dean gilchrist to submit for approval. If approved it was counted towards one of 12 hours needed to complete the program by the end of the semester.

The next steps for our committee: what needs to happen is the URLs for the submission needs to be transferred over to student senate website, and the excel sheets need to be cleared. We need to come to a conclusion if the committee would like to read the short essays, or if Dean Gilchrist was still willing to read and approve. Upon completion of the program there will be a certificate. Attached are the documents pertaining to this program.

**You are welcome here Campaign**

This was a last minute simple project brought to us by Christy Crouse to ensure that the students from anywhere who are attending our university are welcome and encouraged to attend truman state because they need as much attention as any other student.

Difficulties:

* Better publication, especially well in advance before the event.
* Meet with the organizations more often to stay busier throughout the semester
* Ensure follow through with all plans that are set out
* Communicate with president/VP more often about updates and Laura Bates, as she knows the ins and outs of the school
* Communication with administration

Looking Forward:

* The advancement of the Inclusivity Project with the documents pertaining to the project
* Focusing on the advancement of the LGBTQ+ resource center
  + This was touched on this semester, though we were told it was at a stand still
* Stay engaged with events on campus including speakers, programs, activities, as well as  be aware of events on the master calendar
* A few Ideas for the next year’s committee activities
  + The MAC’s Bradley turnbull is an open door when it comes to programming and is a huge advocate for anything and everything social justice, gender, support groups for marginalized individuals. Talk with him and get connected with him as soon as possible.
  + Laura Bates is our staff advisor and is a huge resource regarding ideas for programs/activities
  + A Diverse Christmas, finding a way to incorporate the many ways people of other cultures/ethnicities celebrate the holidays from November - December
  + Partnering with Kirksville high school about potential events getting seniors ready and introduced to the diverse culture of college they are about to experience. Coming from a rural city like KV, I think this is incredibly important
  + Working with freshman to continue safezone training accessibility for students and new staff
  + Utilize the Diversity Week Banner