Diversity Task Force
Friday October 30, 2015
1:00pm -2:30pm
1510

Minutes

Present: Yasmine Ergas, Paul Lagunes, Hisham Aidi, Mohammad Khan, German Cash, Diane Nguyen, Urbano Garza

Diane Nguyen spoke about the Diversity Symposium that will take place on Monday November 23, 2015. In past years attendance has been 30-50 students, but given that this year it is being held the week of Thanksgiving Day, she is hopeful it will still be well attended. There will be a keynote speaker who will speak about public policy as a career option for students of color. There will also be a panel of alumni and current students who will speak about their past and current experiences at SIPA. At the end there will be a mixer where students will meet with current students, alumni, faculty, and administration.

Diane will forward information about the event to German, who will advertise it among his networks.

The conversation about the workshop for incoming students ended with the decision to speak with students in SSOC about what their needs are, and how they can inform the content of the workshops in spring 2016. Without this information, some members of the DTF felt programming would be very top down.

We also discussed the idea of inviting students to attend the already organized workshops in the School of Engineering. However, given that two have already taken place, and that we are not quite sure about the content of the remaining two this fall, we decided it not to formally participate in them as part of our DTF programming. But this doesn’t preclude anyone in the university from attending since they are open to all.
Another important issue discussed was having faculty participate in diversity related workshops/training/etc. offered to centrally to all faculty. Paul Lagunes mentioned a training session he attended that he found helpful. Hisam Aidi also suggested having some “diverse” concepts introduced in the curriculum through certain courses. Yasmine offered to write to Eric Verhoogen about some of the university-wide diversity initiatives in place and how they can be brought to SIPA.