Diversity Task Force  
Tuesday, December 15, 2015  
1:00pm -2:30pm  
1510 IAB  

Minutes  


It was proposed that there would be three specific times during which multicultural competence/diversity workshops would be offered in 2016  

1- During spring-2016 Orientation. On Thursday, January 14, 2016. This will be geared to the incoming students (J-termers). Currently, we are considering 4 facilitators. Regarding content, Leah Goldman suggested that we communicate with the Diversity Coalition (SSOC, Gender Policy Working Group, Spectrum & Women in Leadership) in order to brainstorm and propose content. This will be done by email during the rest of December 2015, and early January 2016. Some suggested that a policy lens is incorporated in this workshop in order to make it more relevant to our students. Prof. Ergas mentioned that there might be a need to bring another type of facilitator to help with this.  

2- There will be a workshop offering for students who entered SIPA in fall 2015 but were not offered that opportunity during Orientation in August 2015, due to logistical reasons. The format and content is being decided. Urbano and others will meet with the School of Social Work to ascertain whether they can help facilitate these workshops. He will report back to the DTF by email to start the conversation about the format and content of this set of workshops, which will take place in February 2016 – March 2016.  

3- The third set of workshops will be offered during Fall-2016 Orientation for new students, which usually takes place in late August. The format/content of the February-March workshops, as well as how well they are received, will inform the format/content this third set.
Some of the students suggested incorporating a diversity dimension into the existing Professional Development requirement developed and implemented by Career Services. A student commented on the idea of having a “diversity expert” to come and speak to the groups for 20 minutes or so, thus obviating the need to train every facilitator that conducts the Professional Development sessions. Urbano will speak with Meg Heenehan from OCS to explore this possibility, and report back to the group. Some students were optimistic about this potential development while some others expressed concern about the group of students who are exempted from the Professional Development requirement.

One student suggested partnering with University Student Life since they are actively working on similar issues.

Another suggestion was to include faculty and staff in the multicultural/diversity/sensitivity training since they can also greatly benefit.

When the idea of having other offices such as Admissions, Career Services, etc., also be part of the DTF, Prof. Ergas suggested having working groups that can be in direct contact with pertinent offices and report back to the DTF.

SSOC spoke about an Inaugural Career Summit that is to take place on January 29, 2016. DTF will be collaborating with SSOC to help make this happen. SSOC also mentioned that they are actively working with the Office of Development and Alumni to create a scholarship for students of color.

Urbano spoke about the upcoming meeting with the Mailman School of Public Health to go over the workshops they have been putting together and see how that can inform the work we do at SIPA.