

.CTL Diversity Minutes, 2/21/2006

Present: Lisa Garcia-Hanson, Kathleen Barlow, Cory Gann, Don Woodcock, Donald Easton-Brooks, Charles Xingzhong li, Minerva Caples.

Guest: Rhodine Hubbard

The agenda was reviewed. The agenda called for a discussion of funding for the Institute for the Study and Development of Culturally Responsive/Relevant Education (ICRRE). One of the decisions facing the committee is whether to act upon a suggestion by Roger Fouts to apply for a SOAR Grant, or to seek other department and CTL support for scoping out funding. It is understood that seed money for ICRRE will clearly be from external and not internal sources.

M. Caples expressed that the committee is a recommending body and can articulate to the Education Department and CTL the need for search support for funding sources.

D. Woodcock and C. Gann informed the committee that a SOAR Grant application requires the identification of a funding agency or foundation. A phone conversation with Julie Guggino revealed that the best way to locate likely sources is to scan calls for proposals, selecting those that appear to be good matches.

D. Easton-Brooks expressed reservations about the ICRRE flowchart design, noting that the segmenting of individual cultural groups will not resonate as well as other more inter- and multi-cultural language. There is consensus on the committee that language and emphasis (for grant application purposes) need be tailored to funding arm perspective.

M. Caples articulated that there must be a clear expression of the need for the project and a rationale. For example, there are not enough people of color in the teaching profession; not enough dominant culture teachers and teacher candidates possess the background and perspective to work with diverse populations. The rationale has to be written in the terms of the need.

An application for a SOAR Grant essentially means applying for a grant for release time in order to apply for grants. The deadline for Fall SOAR Grant applications is April 15th.

K. Barlow surmised that regardless of the SOAR Grant decision, there has to be a set of back up plans. SOAR Grants are very competitive and disperse limited money.

C. Gann posed the question of who would apply and who would be named the director. This person must be named in the application.

D. Woodcock nominated C. Gann. It was agreed that a final decision await the outcome of Rhodine Hubbard's (CEPS Development Officer) presentation and some preliminary efforts to identify funding sources. C. Gann noted that SOAR Grants are reoccurring and that if it is unrealistic to proffer an application by April 15, the option remains for Winter and Spring, 2007.

K Barlow noted that doing a spin search fro grant possibilities is fairly straightforward and offered to take the first steps. This might help inform whether going for a SOAR Grant for Fall is a good idea.

Rhodine Hubbard was welcomed and introduced. She is the development officer for CEPS. She has read Heeding the Call and has been charged by the Dean to make funding for ICRRE a high priority. She has also dialogued with Don Woodcock. She has already begun investigating funding sources. Her specialization is private foundation funding. She does not venture into government grants. Most corporations want to provide "unrestricted" money – that is, not tied to specific functions or outcomes. R. Hubbard believes that the kind of funding that would work for ICRRE is unrestricted grants. An example of the kind of foundation that might be interested is The Tiger Woods Foundation – they are very interested in diversity issues. It is also important to tap into alumni. She is thinking from the standpoint of large and small donations. Some sources like to contribute a small piece of something that is already in the works. This process is not going to happen over night. It requires cultivation. Her job is to partner CTL with foundations looking for this kind of project. What she needs from The Diversity Committee is some numbers. Not a full fledged budget, but some preliminary figure request that would get the institute up and running. We will also send a list of committee members.

D. Woodcock and L. Garcia-Hanson reported on their visit to Western Washington University. Two in-depth reports about The Center For Educational Pluralism and The Diversity Committee were disseminated as well as several other documents and bibliographies. WWU does not have a diversity requirement; however, diversity is infused across the curriculum. All education students take EDF 310 with an emphasis on "habits of the mind."

K. Barlow began a quick introduction to the proposal she is constructing for a diversity cultural studies admission requirement as part of application to the teacher education program. Should this be conceptualized as a basic skill, similar to other general education basic skills? This admissions proposal will be at the top of the agenda for the next meeting. The next meeting will be scheduled through e-mail. An informal poll of committee members in attendance showed Friday pms. still to be the preferred time.

Submitted by Cory Gann.