Diversity Program Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 1:00-1:45

Next Meeting: December ….

Attendees: Ellen Retelle, Beth Merenstein, Kurt Love, Lisa Frank

Regrets: Reginald Simmons, Awilda Reasc, Laura Marchese, Stephen Constanza, Bobbie Koplowitz, Khoon Koh.

Meeting Minutes and Action Plan.

During the October 7 meeting, the committee discussed ‘filling the gap’; that is, identifying a topic that was not being addressed at CCSU. Then, inviting and scheduling an individual speaker to discuss the topic. Different committee members were asked to send in information about the events that different groups were sponsoring. Thanks to the committee members who sent the information.

During today’s meeting (November 4, 2009), the committee members felt that there were many speakers presenting at CCSU; consequently, it would be difficult to ‘fill a gap’ with another speaker. However, there is a gap between speakers and the CCSU campus; that is, visiting speakers are not focused on CCSU. As a result, the committee members decided to go in a different direction: a) There were two suggestions: Organize a performance of the “Theatre of the Oppressed”. Recently, Kurt Love and Josh Perlstein organized a performance with Teacher Education students; or b) Suggestion to bring in a high profile speaker, such as Tim Wise.

The committee decided to pursue organizing a “Theatre of the Oppressed” performance; rather than an outside speaker. The focus will be on what is happening at CCSU.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Kurt Love will discuss organizing a performance of “Theatre of the Oppressed” with Josh Perlstein (CCSU Theater Dept). The performance will be based on issues that can be addressed at CCSU (e.g., student athlete drinking blood). Goal is to schedule performance end of February or during the first two weeks of March. (Kurt Love)

2. Compile a list of issues that can be addressed that can be used in the “Theatre of the Oppressed” performance. Information collected from Moise Salinas, Awilda Reasc, and Antonio Garcia-Lozarda (Modern Languages). Also, talk with director of Student Disabilities Services, LGBT Center, LASO, Black Students Union and residential hall directors. (Ellen will send email)

3. Write letter to student groups explaining the objective of the two events: Theatre of the Oppressed and the Forum (April 21) and inviting student groups to participate in the “Theatre of the Oppressed” and the April 21st forum. In addition, the committee may ask student leaders if they are aware of other issues that can be addressed on CCSU campus. (Ellen)

4. Submit 2 grants: December 1 grant money would be allocated to the “Theater of the Oppressed”. February 1 grant would be allocated to the Forum (April 21, 2010). (Ellen)

5. Talk to Moise Salinas about April Forum. Obtain support for event. (Ellen)

Topics: White Privilege, Honors class have few students of color.

Address: needs, goals, & activities/programs that are needed in each of these areas

(40 minutes) followed by a summary to all participants (20 minutes).