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## Africana Studies Advisory Board Minutes

September 25, 2012

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Members present: Vernon Woodley, Teresita Hunt, James Ochwa-Echel, Felix Kumah-Abiwu, Brandy Woods, Rosemary Onyango, Shawn Schultz, Mona Davenport, Roger Beck, Charles Foy  
Staff present: Connie Clarkson

James Ochwa-Echel called the meeting to order at 11:04 am

### I. Welcome & Introductions

### II. Personnel

James Ochwa-Echel reported that two faculty members have left Africana Studies. A national search committee was chaired by Associate Dean Patricia Poulter. Of the fifty applications received, Dr. Felix Kumah-Abiwu was selected as a new faculty member for Africana Studies. AFR faculty has been reduced from three to two instructors due to low enrollment; there are four majors and six minors in the program. Until enrollment increases, there will be no additional faculty hired.

### III. Integrative Learning

James reported that seven AFR majors and minors will be taking a trip to the Freedom Center, National Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio in November.

James also reported that he and Rosemary Onyango applied for and received Redden Grant monies. The monies will be used to bring in a guest speaker and to take three students to present at a conference.

Africana Studies will also organize a conference in Spring 2013 for AFR students to present papers.

### IV. Recruitment

In the next month James will be going to community colleges to talk about the program and advocate for 2:2 articulation agreements. EIU is also hosting a community college articulation conference on September 26, 2012.

Shawn Schultz stated having an Africana Studies table at the Minor Fair, Transfer Days and Foundation Day will help. Students are encouraged to attend these events and having tables set up will help advocate the program.

James announced that Brandy Woods is helping to start the Africana Studies Students Association. James has also spoken with Dean Irwin and she is looking into communication inconsistencies with Africana Studies for upcoming events.

Mona Davenport stated that Academic Days, Open Houses, etc. are posted on the Academic Calendar; for future AFR tables she will check in the Minority Affairs office for possible table decorations to attract the students. Mona asked if the AFR

brochures were finished and could we come up with a mailer to send to community colleges for upcoming events; also the possibility of sending a mass email. Mona also suggested having Rovion Reed work with Brandy to develop a tri-fold display board.

Charles Foy asked if we could get biographies together from alumni to put together for future presentations.

Connie Clarkson stated that she has a scholarship list of alumni with occupations listed. Connie also stated that the AFR website has been updated with career opportunities and that a tri-fold board is being used for presentations.

Brandy Woods mentioned a possible trend/area of distinction for recruitment; students with a high GPA could be offered honors classes. Africana Studies currently does not have an honors program; it would need to be integrated. James is waiting to hear feedback from Dean Irwin regarding this matter.

Felix Kumah-Abiwu has started promoting a degree in AFR in the classroom.

Roger Beck suggested having a speaker series.

**V. Scholarship**

James has sent out appeals for additional scholarship funds. There are currently over three thousand dollars in the scholarship account. Dr. Beck mentioned the need to court future donors.

**VI. Other Items**

Charles Foy has submitted four new Atlantic History courses for approval to CAHCC. Courses include three undergraduate and one graduate to be integrated into the AFR curriculum.

**VII. Adjournment**

Roger Beck motioned to adjourn, Mona Davenport seconded, motion passed.