
African American Studies Advisory Board Minutes

January 21, 2010

Dr. Ochwa-Echel presided over the meeting.

Members present: Dr. Abo, Dr. Beck, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Kuma, Dr. Loudon, Dr. Lovekamp, Dr. Ochwa-Echel, and Mrs. Williams

Staff present: Mrs. Kathy Chancellor

I. Welcome

II. Approval of the November 12, 2009 minutes.

Approval of these minutes will be put on next month's agenda.

III. Update on the AFR curriculum

Dr. James Ochwa-Echel is currently working on the New Course Proposal forms for the new courses that were previously discussed. He will be meeting with Dr. Patty Poulter, Associate Dean for CAH for her review of the forms before they will be submitted to the CAH Curriculum Committee.

IV. Scholarships

All African American Studies faculty and staff have contributed to the scholarship fund: **African American Studies Alumni Scholarship Fund**. Currently, we are looking for ways to go into the community for support. Jonathan McKenzie sent letters out on our behalf to all AFR alumni. Dr. Beck suggested that Dr. Ochwa-Echel meet with the new VP sometime in February to meet him and ask for suggestions. Mr. Kuma discussed local alumni who works at Greenwood Foundations who usually attends BHM celebrations. He will get the information to us.

V. Recruitment

We need to begin now due to low number of our majors. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Dr. Ochwa-Echel. Some suggestions that were mentioned were:

- Get the word out that AFR is an interdisciplinary major
- Notify advisors when the curriculum changes
- Attend a CAN (an advisor)meeting
- Talk with Karenlee Spencer (581-7661) regarding Open Houses
- Create 2+2 agreements with some community colleges

VI. Announcements

The ICGD has a guest speaker, Dr. James Banks coming to campus on January 28, 2010. We would like to encourage faculty and students to attend one of the two sessions. The first session will be at 10 am in the Arcola/Tuscola room where he will be talking to students and the second session will begin at 12:30 pm in 1550 Doudna where the topic of the forum is "Human Rights, Diversity, Citizenship and Education in Global Times".

VII. Other Items

- Dr. Abo announced his program that will be presented February 24 as part of Black History Month. He explained that he has several students who wish to present their research findings during this time. Also, there are more students than the forum can handle and would like to give all students a chance to present. He will be asking professors to allow some of these students to present during class, if faculty would agree to this.
- There is currently no AFR student association. This would be an area where students an opening to meet and gather.
- Town Hall meetings where students would organize the meetings and bring in guest speakers to help motivate our students.
- Apply for Redden Grants to help with expenses when trying to bring in guest speakers for class and/or evening presentations.
- When the U of I bring visiting scholars in – we might try to collaborate with them – and possibly getting them for a lower dollar amount for a speaking engagement here at EIU.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Kathy Chancellor, Recorder

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday, Feb 18, 2010
3108 Blair Hall