
African American Studies Advisory Board Minutes

October 8, 2009

Dr. Ochwa-Echel presided over the meeting.

Members present: Dr. Abo, Ms. Davenport, Dr. Lovekamp, and Dr. Ochwa-Echel

Staff present: Mrs. Kathy Chancellor

I. Welcome

- II. Dean Lynch** couldn't make the meeting; however he did want to say how tremendous the campus community's presence was for Guest Lecture, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. He was delighted with the overall turnout for the event.

III. Approval of the September 10, 2009 minutes.

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

IV. Scholarships

Ms. Davenport talked briefly about an upcoming meeting in Matteson. She will share our information regarding the African American Studies Alumni Scholarship Fund with those attending the function.

V. By-Laws Draft

The draft of the AFR By-Laws will be placed on next month's agenda.

VI. Curriculum Review

- Dr. James Ochwa-Echel explained that African American Studies has not completed any assessment in a number of years. He has completed a draft, but a final AFR assessment is due by June 2010. Part of the information that is needed to complete this task is the AFR curriculum. This is one reason for the push to complete and move towards a revision in our curriculum.
- We had an external reviewer on campus this past spring. Copies of this review were distributed. Discussion ensued. Some suggestions were:
 - Lower the current 36 core requirements to other discipline areas within the College of Arts & Humanities
 - Core requirements should come from within the AFR program
 - Increase the number of electives
 - Add different tracks/concentrations
 - Leadership
 - Media/Literature
 - Art/Theatre/Dance
 - Geography/Culture
- We have not had any new majors in the program during the past year. We hope to move towards a curriculum that will grasp the interest of the students.

VII. Other Items

Dr. Ochwa-Echel is interested in an African dance group. Ms. Davenport explained that there were currently five different dance troupes at EIU and she would send the information to him.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Kathy Chancellor, Recorder

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday, Nov 12, 2009
3108 Blair Hall