
African American Studies Advisory Board Minutes

September 10, 2009

Dr. Ochwa-Echel presided over the meeting.

Members present: Dr. Abo, Dr. Beck, Mr. Kuma, Dr. Loudon, Dean Lynch, Dr. Ochwa-Echel, Dr. Onyango, Mr. Reed, and Ms. Williams.

Staff present: Mrs. Kathy Chancellor.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of the March 26, 2009 minutes.

The minutes were approved as written.

III. Scholarships

- Past years appropriated monies were used. We were told that appropriated monies could not be used in this manner.
- There is an account now set for scholarships – this will be endowed when funds reach \$10,000.00. It is called African American Alumni Scholarship Fund.
- Currently, we have one donor who is having payroll deduction and has contributed (to date) \$225.00!
- Last year during the Minority Reunion donations were made to various causes. Ms. Davenport stated \$980.00 of donations was to be deposited into our newly formed African American Alumni Scholarship Fund.
- Dr. James Ochwa-Echel explained the various ways to contribute to this fund – all you need to do is complete one of the forms
 - Payroll Deduction Authorization card
 - Give a gift
 - Enclose your gift (check)
 - Multi-year pledge
 - Credit card gift (complete with credit card information)
- Last year we held a breakfast during the weekend of the Minority Reunion and a few alumni stopped in to visit. Two in particular were very interested in our students – offering suggestions to rally more students for the program. One in particular, Ms. Marvionetta Woodley-Penn who owns her own non-profit business (Global Girls) offered to come and speak to our students at a later date.
- Dr. Beck suggested within the letters going out to potential donors – state that a small gift (will we be more specific) would be given to those who would give a specific dollar amount to the fund. Also, be sure to write thank-you notes to all who donate. He suggested possible CD's from alumni: Henry Butler or Johnny Lane. We might contact them to see if they would be interested in donating CD's.
- There was discussion about creating a newsletter about the African American Studies Program including: faculty, what's new in the program, and upcoming events and speakers.

IV. Recruitment

- We need to seriously get started because we have one major who will graduate in December and two others will graduate in May.
- We want to get our current majors/minors to assist us in recruiting additional students in our program.
- Dr. Beck suggested that our majors return to their HS and work with their HS counselor to structure a meeting where they talk with HS students on the pros for pursuing a degree in African American Studies. Mr. Reed said that reaching HS students at this stage might help them better understand our program.
- Develop a speaker series where faculty and students come together to learn from the speaker, and later discuss the speaker and topic – together.
- Gather testimonies from alumni and post in a newsletter and the AFR website.

V. By-Laws Draft

The effective terms the members serve will begin once the By-Laws are approved. Members reviewed the draft and have made some suggestions. Suggestions were as follows:

- Change Director to Coordinator throughout the document
- Under Article II change:
 - c.) Two students enrolled... to Two students either a major or minor...
- Under Article III add the following:
 - e.) Community representative who has interest in African American Studies
 - f.) There shall be 15 members and 8 for a quorum
- Under Article V
 - Change each Fall and Spring to monthly

VI. Curriculum Review

Discussion of how we obtained the reviewer and if we will be getting additional curriculum reviews. Dr. Ochwa-Echel suggested that we hold this topic for review for our next meeting due to the time.

VII. Other Items

- Dr. Beck would like our members to keep informed with everything the Black History Month committee is working on.
- Ngugi will be speaking in The Dounda Fine Arts Center on October 7, 2009.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Kathy Chancellor, Recorder

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING
Thursday, October 8, 2009
3108 Blair Hall