SUNY Potsdam Diversity and Inclusion Action Coalition (DIAC)
Town Hall Meeting – April 25, 2016
www.potsdam.edu/diac and diac@potsdam.edu

Steering committee members: Latesha Fussell, chair; Libbie Freed, Amanda Grazioso, Jennifer Mitchell, Jay Pecora, Oscar Sarmiento, Lonel Woods, and student representative Jwuan Murphy-Rodriguez. Nonvoting members are Louise Tyo (interim director of CFD) and Stacey Basford (Affirmative Action).

- DIAC Community Conversations 2/29 and 3/28: open discussion of topics related to equity and inclusion.
- Film screenings of If These Halls Could Talk on 3/23 and White Like Me: Race, Racism, and White Privilege in America on 2/10 and 2/11
- Conversations with alumni Tesfa Alexander and Val Atekha: a Conversation with Men of Color and a dinner with DIAC Steering Committee members.
- Workshops for students on Working Together Against Racism [Wilderness ed and two public]
- Tea Time with a Hint of Lemon and a Splash of Diversity!: Student representatives on DIAC
- Bias Incident Reporting form was developed and launched on DIAC webpage. This is a centralized reporting form for any instance of bias in order to collect information about climate. Received four reports from students, and met with each reporter to offer resources. Planning to meet with Potsdam Village Police Chief to discuss concerns raised by students. (Note: The DIAC Bias Incident Reporting form is separate from UP’s “anonymous reporting” form on its “incident reporting” webpage.) Much more information at the DIAC webpage.
- Bias Response Team: Will work with new Chief Diversity officer to restructure Bias Response Team, which consists of trained individuals ready to help others who are victims of bias. Our long term goal is a fuller bias response team, including peer educators, peer responders, peer counselors, etc.

Campus Climate, Outreach and Bias Response Subcommittee -- Amanda Grazioso, chair, with Tim Ashley, Louise Tyo, Glenda Morales-Hanley, Gena Nelson, Ada Santafera, Stacey Basford and student representative Tim Jenkins.

- Organized and hosted DIAC Town Hall meeting 12/2/16.
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Community Outreach Subcommittee – Jay Pecora chair, with Shaili Singh, Carol Franck, MJ Heisey, and student representative Katie Agar.

- Polling student organizations regarding local businesses that are student friendly.
- Looking into volunteering opportunities for our students, experiences that could get them into the community.
- Gathering info on where students spend their BEAR money.
- Collaborated with Linda Dashnaw of campus childcare center, who is preparing for Family Night event.
- Planning to participate in First Saturday celebration as a way to reach out to the community. We will have a handout that explains who we are and how to get involved with us. We will also have a questionnaire for local businesses asking what they would like to know about our expanding diversity.
**Diversity Programming and Student Training Subcommittee** -- Oscar Sarmiento, chair, with Ruth Policella, TK Huff, Ruth Policella, Bill Mitchell, Bethany Parker, Matt LaVine, Christina Knopf, and student representative Megan Judware.

- Members of the subcommittee have attended the Shoes Project conversations (aka Circles of Understanding).
- Promoted events on diversity through the DIAC webpage calendar events for the college community.
- **LGBTQ Safe Zone training sessions**: Organized and held two consecutive trainings for faculty and staff members on February 15 and 22 with the assistance of qualified facilitators from SLU. Two SUNY Potsdam transgender students presented at each session. We would like to thank Louise Tyo for her decisive encouragement to do the sessions. We plan to hold a third round of training sessions next fall: ‘Rolake Odetoyinbo, the LGBTQ SAFE Project Coordinator at St. Lawrence University, has committed enthusiastically to do a session on the topic of Intersectionality.
- **Missing Voices Poetry Contest**. We created and organized this new contest. We had four judges, three of whom are teaching faculty members (Dr. Catel, Dr. Levitt, and Dr. Sarmiento) and one who is a student member of DIAC (Iwan Murphy-Rodriguez). The contest winners were Jesse Patrick and Summer Kelly. Prizes were awarded at the World Poetry Day celebration on March 22. The four winning poems were published in the March 25 issue of *The Racquette*. We plan to hold the Contest again in Spring 2017.
- **SUNY “Potsdam Alumni Tell All” Panel** at 11 AM on Friday, April 29 in Flagg 164. The goal is to put five alumni of color in contact with current students from our diverse population so that alums can share transformative college and after-college experiences that led them to their current professional situation. In addition, we hope to foster a mentoring program between alumni and students of color. We would like to repeat this program in Spring 2017.

**Professional Development and Curriculum Subcommittee** -- Libbie Freed & Lonel Woods, co-chairs, with Jan Trybula, Liliana Trevizan, Chanel Cook, Sharon House, Susan Godreau, Jill Pearson, Tim Murphy, Jim Donahue, and student representatives Jackline Kopyt and Kelsey Sixberry.

- Subcommittee has doubled in size since Fall 2015.
- Created **Diversity-Rich Course List**, posted on DIAC webpage for both Spring 2016 and now for Fall 2016 courses. We gathered information from faculty about diversity-rich courses they will be teaching, organized that information into a list and posted it on the DIAC webpage for students and advisors to look at. We plan to continue and to improve the list.
- **General Education task force**. We hope that at least one member of our subcommittee will serve on the new GenEd task force that will be examining our GenEd requirements and recommending changes.
- We have scheduled a meeting with Provost Dr. Bette Bergeron to ask for her support and to share ideas.
- We are exploring ideas for creating a **supportive space** for faculty and staff of color.
- Lastly, we continue to do long-term strategic thinking about curriculum and professional development.

**Communication Subcommittee** – Jennifer Mitchell, chair, with Anna Sorenson, Laura Brown, and student representatives Abby Adams and Julia Zakaryan.

- **Racquette submissions**: Spring 2016 events; bios Steering Committee members; previews of DIAC film screenings; article reporting on DIAC Community Conversations; bios for members of subcommittees
- Developed **DIAC event evaluation form**, recently finalized
- **New members**: compiled applications for review, notified members, and recorded starts of terms
- **Reports** of DIAC Campus Climate Survey (Mitchell, Woods and Freed) and Focus Groups (Mitchell and Scales) are nearly complete, along with a list of campus initiatives undertaken since the data collection began.