Diversity Committee Minutes

January 25, 2013

Members Present: Tina Bright, Therese Collette, Elyse Lovell, Joyce Walborn, Laura Gifreda, Brett King, Christina Keener, Cindy Yarberry (chair)

Members Absent: Tracy Hayward, George Sonnenberg

I. After reviewing the minutes from November, Cindy said that she would follow up with Jim More to see if construction students can polish up the wooden cutouts from the Montana Silent Witness display.

II. Brett had wanted to discuss the brown bag lunch idea again. Cindy gave out a handout on one upcoming lunch-time presentation by our counselors, Grace Hodges and Randy Furhmann on Wednesday, February 6th. The topic is “body-oriented skills for stress, anxiety, and PTSD.” Perhaps the student from Iraq who was featured in the IR last weekend might be willing to give a talk on campus. Cindy will contact George for contact info for this student. We picked a tentative date of Wednesday, March 6th for this presentation. Also, Chris mentioned that a panel of people representing different faiths could be another idea.

III. The committee discussed the Smithsonian wall poster display; Laura mentioned that she sees a lot of students stop to look at it when they walk down that hall. We talked about ways that faculty might use the display more intentionally in their classes; Elyse gave an example of how she is using it in her Aging and Society class. If the agenda permits, she will mention in the next Gen Ed meeting. We can keep the display for the rest of the semester, but it will eventually have to go back to Mt. Tech.

IV. Elyse gave out information on a veterans’ survey that we have been giving, along with Mt. Tech staff for their students. She is gathering information on differences between age/enrollment hours/first generation/parental status among veterans. Although the samples are small, much of the data reflects national trends.

V. The committee discussed ideas for a spring program. Eventually it was decided that we would put together a kind of ethnic fair that might have both students and faculty from different cultures have booths in the Student Center with information and other cultural items and perhaps a speaker panel that would offer views on their cultures and field questions. Joyce Walborn and Chris Keener will work on this presentation. It was mentioned that Michelle Lewis at Carroll would be a good contact for this presentation.

VI. Cindy talked about her imminent departure and Joyce and Chris graciously offered to be co-chairs for the rest of the spring.

VII. Next meeting will be on Thursday, February 28th. Time and place TBD.