

Diversity Committee

Meeting Minutes

2/15/2017

Attending:

Dr. Nicole Vaux (chair)

Dr. Shalanda Stanley (historian)

Ms. Rhonda Mann (member)

Mrs. Tiffany Jackson (member)

Dr. Leonard Clark (member)

LaShawn Smith (member)

Dr. Vaux opened the meeting and previous minutes were approved. Rhonda Mann discussed the data she needs to establish baseline data for attrition rates. Dr. Stanley has access to admission data from Fall 2013 to present that will be helpful in determining this. Dr. Clark informed the committee that Kelsey Bohl would have access to the database that will have names of students so that the committee can track admitted student by name from the time they were admitted to the university and the time they were admitted to teacher education. This will aid in establishing retention rates. Once this is established, data will be disaggregated by program.

Rhonda Mann provided the committee with demographical data from area schools, including teacher and administrator race and gender. Representatives from the diversity committee will visit these schools and speak to seniors during Spring 2017.

LaShaun Smith has a current list of incoming freshman (Fall 2018) who are classified as low income and/or minority students. Of those that applied and were not admitted were due to either low GPA or ACT scores; however, it was noted that the majority of the prospective students met the necessary requirements for minimum GPA, but their ACT score was too low. Options were discussed regarding available test prep and procedures in preparing area seniors in taking the ACT. The idea of secondary students holding prep workshops on the ULM campus was discussed. This act would help fulfill the community service requirement of education majors and provide much needed aid to area high school seniors.

The Mission Statement and Goals were approved by the committee. Dr. Vaux is working with Arely in order to place diversity committee mission statement and goals on the CAES webpage. Next-steps actions to be taken will be creating a linear timeline that supports the meeting of the determined goals.

Incentives (scholarships, grants) were discussed including the Foundation Awards, ACTs, and TRIO. These are seen as viable sources of support funding for students and prospective students. All of the available scholarships, grants, and other support services will be typed onto a word document in order to create a flyer that will be distributed to area seniors during school visits.

Student nominees were discussed. Cody Williams, Arnita Johnson, Lexus Boyde, and four students from secondary block 1 will make up the student representatives to the committee. Their first meeting will be February 22, 2017. Dr. Vaux, Tiffany Jackson and LaShaun Smith will facilitate this first meeting. The students will be asked a set of questions devised by the committee in order to determine factors that led the students to teacher education and ascertain elements of the campus and community life. The students will attend the school visits occurring in Spring 2017.

The next (student) meeting will be Wednesday, February 22nd at 1:15 in Walker Hall Conference room.