Meeting 6 Agenda

Campus Change Team
March 21, 2011
KSC 268 – 11-Noon

1. Follow up on UMD Seminar, Human Diversity course
2. Lib Ed Theme of Cultural Diversity
3. Housing and Food Update
4. Unit Change Team Charge and Flow Chart
5. Subcommittee work
7. Other

Meeting 5 Summary

The discussion focused on the curriculum changes to UMD Seminar and the pilot program discussed at the last meeting. The possibility of the UMD seminar being a yearlong course was also discussed. The question was raised if there is something significant that we want all students to know? Are there other possibilities for delivering this content?

Jennifer Mencl reported that the new Liberal Education Program will require that all students complete a 3 cr Cultural Diversity in the US class. As of March 1st, the Lib Ed committee has received 34 classes that can fit into that category. Jennifer shared some examples of what courses in this category have to address. It was suggested that maybe a sub-group from the CCT can review these courses.

These issues and questions were raised:

- What other UMD courses cover cultural diversity? E.g. Women, Race and Class in Women’s Studies and Human Diversity in Education.
- The UMD Seminar class can focus on creating a mindset to learning about and valuing diversity. This could also provide a framework. Then the lib ed courses can build on this.
- It was suggested that UMD Seminar consist of 2 semesters to provide more support for student development over their first year.
- What do we mean by cultural competence, and how do we measure it?
- To change mind-set is a tall order – requires significant meta-cognitive work.
- Training student leaders
  - Freshman Welcome Week: training the Rock Stars (Welcome Week leaders) in having discussions around diversity
  - UMD Seminar: teaching assistants
  - Housing: resident assistants, etc.
  - So it is not a responsibility for any one person/group. The question is: What programs can UMD incorporate to advance social justice goals?
- Need an integrated process across the 4 years. Some kind of process, reflective piece that is part of every degree – so there is some facilitated process across the 4 years – how to make sense of multiculturalism in your major. In an ideal world it wouldn’t be a departmental responsibility, but rather interdisciplinary. Perhaps this could initially be a collegiate course. How can we propose something that could be acceptable across departments? Paula shared about a program where students looked at issues from diverse lenses form a discipline perspective.
What about having a required senior level interdisciplinary (cross campus) seminar course that includes the following elements: capstone course, synthesis course that also serves as a bridge to the student’s life beyond college, discipline-based, social justice.

It was decided to form a sub-committee to come up with recommendations. Paula, Helen, Sovann and Janelle volunteered to be part of this subcommittee.

Susana reported on the housing subcommittee (convened by Vice Chancellor Greg Fox). UMD will offer students the opportunity to live in a Multicultural Learning Housing experience by Fall 201.

Bilin reported that during Welcome Week there will offer a diverse selection of food choices. The ethnic food subcommittee is looking into the sale of halal and kosher food selections in the second level Bookstore. It was suggested that we also need to look at food that is gluten free, and other foods – from health and disability stand-point. Student Association is also working on healthy food choices and getting labels on food (including nutrition facts).

In response to requests from UCTs for clarification of their charge, the communication process, and the development of goals, two documents were distributed for comment: Unit Change Team Charge and Flow Chart.

About 14 UMD faculty and staff will be attending the 12 Annual White Privilege Conference (April 13-16, 2011 in Minneapolis). The group will convene afterwards to share what they learned. Helen suggested that if people take notes and share them with her, she can compile then in a Google Docs collection.