DEIA TF Biweekly Meeting (summary)

10-20-2021

Present:

* DoMonique Arnold
* Erik Chapman
* Sylvia Figueroa Ortiz
* George Gottschalk
* Victor Jones
* Joe Lenkart
* Jake MacGregor
* Elisabeth Paulus
* Lauren Phegley
* JJ Pionke
* Chris Prom
* Norris Purdy
* Zoe Revell
* Jen-chien Yu

Missing:

* Heather Murphy

1. Announcements

* 1. Joe requested team members sign up for new (or join existing) sub-teams using the sign-up sheet on Box.
  2. Joe expressed appreciation for George including some information about his heritage and the Muscogee Nation’s language in LibNews. Joe hopes we can look at a recent suggestion from Steve Witt about more visible signage for the diversity of languages, including sign-language, in our Library to share our values on inclusivity and remind us of our obligations to make ourselves welcoming.
* Consultancy Support Subteam recommendation
  1. Chris summarized a proposal by this subteam, who met with several campus experts and external consultants. The subteam recommends hiring one of the DEI consultants and the rationale is in the proposal document on Teams. Would like to get the task force’s feedback on our recommendation to engage this consultant.
  2. Team members asked questions about who the consultant would work with (Victor stated he would be the point person), what happens if the consulting work extends beyond the duration of the task force (Victor said he would work with the consultant to ensure that action items and recommendations are followed through on), and what the specific work would be (this would be the next step to determine if task force agrees with the recommendation)
  3. Several task force members supported the idea of having an external consultant who can bring in new ideas and help surface things as a neutral 3rd party by being a safe way to give feedback
  4. To wrap up
     1. all TF members were asked to look at the proposal and then provide a Yes/No vote in teams on whether to move forward with requesting a consultant.

Assessment Team

1. JJ summarized that the Assessment Team would like to move forward with focus groups.
2. Some task force members sought clarification on the process the Assessment Subteam wants for providing feedback on the focus group questions and also the timing of moving forward with focus groups if we are planning to go ahead with a consultant who may want to meet with people in the library.
3. To wrap up,
   1. the Assessment Subteam put a copy of their focus group timeline on Teams, with the most expedient item being that they would like to do focus groups after winter break. They are currently working on IRB approval.
   2. Jen volunteered to help coordinate as she is on both Consultancy Support and Assessment Sub-teams and can make sure we do not over-assess.
   3. Chris clarified EC doesn’t need to see the focus group questions.
   4. Joe will meet with the Dean to discuss any funding requests made by subteams.