

Staff Senate: CODRE Report for 09/12/19 Meeting – Submitted by Christina Howard

Communication & Marketing

- Adding a calendar to website to capture the various activities going on that are related to diversity
- Annual report is coming out this month

Diversity Programming Committee

- Discussed updates on planned programming:
 - 09/25/19 - Moderated Discussion of The National Museum of African American History by Lonnie Burch (there will be various activities with Lonnie Burch on both 09/25 and 09/26)
 - 10/23/19 - Fighting for Peace programming – finalizing schedule

Staff Concerns Committee

- Continuing work regarding the Career Pathways program with physical plant
- Working with the Staff Senate's Ad Hoc Physical Plant Committee
- Would like to have someone on the Commission who is a physical plant employee. There has been representatives interested before: one was appointed and then declined due to a concern of retaliation

Student Engagement Committee

- Looking into how students make us aware of issues they experience
 - Discussed needing to make this process easier
 - There used to be a program called BIRT (Bias Incident Response Team) – this program is now defunct
 - We need to be more proactive and not reactive
- Need to improve the process for RSOs to receive funding from Diversity Programming

-There was a discussion regarding the free speech area. There are concerns with some of the individuals who have requested to use this space. On this day there was an individual there who was described as using offensive slurs and spouting hateful messages.

- There is concern about the fact that some of these individuals wear go pro cameras and are recording students
- Concerns were shared about the actual space used for the free speech area: a central place on campus near SAC, a physical barrier (the ramp) that does not allow students to veer away once they are near free speech area, etc
- Discussion was also focused on ways to be more proactive instead of reactive regarding
 - Would like to be aware of speakers before they come to campus, so that students, staff, and faculty can be alerted (concern about triggering messages/subjects)
 - Will discuss with Michael Mardis and invite him to come to speak to CODRE about the process of using the free speech area

Next General Body Meeting: 10/10/19 at 12:00