



Committee on Diversity Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. | via Zoom

I. Call to order

Nate Quinn called to order the regular meeting of the EPP Committee on Diversity at 1:01 p.m. on March 3, 2021.

Present: Melanie Carden-Jessen, Juan Meraz, Sarah Nixon, Wes Pratt, Nate Quinn, Dennis Rudnick, Travis Seay, Tonia Tinsley, Kelly Wynne

Guest: Jimi Sode, Coordinator of Equity & Diversity at Springfield Public Schools

II. Approval of minutes

February 3, 2021 minutes approved.

III. Discussion Items

1. Melanie Carden-Jessen attended workshops about recruiting minorities and women into higher education courses and research projects. Melanie and an associate met with Springfield Public Schools and are working on a plan to meet with middle school students and their parents. The plan includes having discussions with students about their future plans and assisting them with that path. Melanie would like to get the students on campus a minimum of once per year.
2. Dr. Quinn introduced Jimi Sode, Coordinator of Equity & Diversity at Springfield Public Schools (SPS). Mr. Sode talked about the different efforts SPS is implementing to recruit and retain diverse staff and teachers. This academic year, SPS is working on improving their hiring practices and strengthening partnerships with other institutions. Supports are being developed to identify current diverse MSU students to provide incentives to teach at SPS and be that change in the district. Financial supports include training, scholarships, and loan forgiveness. There are no exact amounts yet as details have not yet been finalized.
 - a. The committee expressed their support of the programs SPS is working on and commended Mr. Sode on his efforts to collaborate with MSU.
 - b. Mr. Sode expects a detailed plan to be ready by the end of March and will bring that information back to this committee.
3. There were two scholarships that this committee used to interview for and make recommendations. They were removed from this committee but it is unclear where they are. Dr. Meraz will talk to Heather King about the status of the scholarships.
4. Wes Pratt reminded the committee that part of the challenge of increasing cultural consciousness of staff and teachers. We need to prepare the system to treat candidates with dignity and respect.
5. Dr. Quinn thanked Mr. Sode for speaking with the committee. The bottom line is that we need to recruit more students into the College of Education to become teachers and administrators. We need to contact, recruit, and retain and take advantage of the opportunities in our own back yard.

IV. New Business

1. No new business

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V. Old Business

1. No old business

Dr. Quinn adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Vicki Kramer