



## ***Committee on Diversity Meeting Minutes***

May 5, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. | 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 May 5, 2021.

Present: Melanie Carden-Jessen, Heidi Hadley, Judith Martinez, Sarah Nixon, Nate Quinn, Dennis Rudnick, Travis Seay

Guest: Jim Sode, SPS

### **II. Approval of minutes**

April 7, 2021 minutes approved.

### **III. Discussion Items**

#### **1. Jimi Sode, Coordinator of Equity & Diversity at Springfield Public Schools (SPS)**

a. SPS has launched a “Grow Your Own Program” initiative to attract more diverse teachers. It is in the last stages of finalization. There is a kick-off event next Thursday, May 14, at the Springfield Public Schools building on St. Louis Street. The program is to encourage underrepresented groups to be educators and will provide programmatic, mentor, financial, and counseling supports. Mr. Sode invited the committee to attend the kick off and asked that they get the word out to students. K-12 and higher education students are all welcome.

i. The committee discussed institutional funding and past funding programs that may be implemented to attract more students to the program.

ii. Dr. Quinn will contact Dr. Craig to discuss possible funding options.

iii. Dr. Rudnick is on the COE Diversity Council and will bring forward the idea of matching funds with SPS.

#### **2. COE Taskforce**

a. There are four subgroups of the COE Taskforce. Dr. Quinn is on the recruitment and retention subgroup. Dr. Quinn screen-shared and reviewed the university’s diversity goals.

i. Dr. Quinn reviewed objectives, actions steps, and resources for each goal. The committee discussed other ideas as well. For example, Dr. Carden-Jessen is working with Dr. Wallenmeyer on coordinating an event twice yearly to bring middle school students to campus. This is not a MSU sponsored activity.

a. Dr. Rudnick will connect with Dr. Brandon Aigner to communicate this activity since Dr. Aigner is the Middle School Coordinator.

b. These types of activities should be recommended to the COE Taskforce.

c. There are communication issues between secondary programs and COE in terms of information dissemination.

d. Providing a ten or fifteen minute presentation to students that are already visiting the MSU campus through programs, such as Dr. Carden-Jessen’s, is an opportunity that does not cost anything but time and reaches potential students earlier.



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- ii. If anyone has other action step ideas, please contact Dr. Quinn.
- b. A data system to track demographics for MSU should be available. Dr. Quinn shared the SPS system via shared screen and suggested that MSU should have a similar site. A university-wide system that faculty or staff can access at any time is needed.
3. Dr. Nixon and the committee thanked Dr. Quinn for his three years of leadership on this committee.
4. The superintendents' meeting the committee discussed last month will not begin again until fall 2021.

Dr. Quinn adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by: Vicki Kramer