



**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
OCTOBER 7, 2019, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
CALABASAS ROOM**

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Chair Matthew Contreras at 11:35am.

**II. Roll Call**

Present	Absent	Staff	Guest (s)
Melanie Alvarez Rojas (Co-Chair) (She/Her)	Julissa Hernandez	Freddie Sánchez (He/Him)	
Matthew Contreras (Chair) (He/Him)			
Albert Martinez (He/His)			
Shaileen Martinez (She/Her)			
Alexandra Meza (She/Her)			
Denise Nguyen (She/Her)			
Richard Rachman (he/Him)			
Javetta Watson (She/Her)			

**III. Open Forum**

None

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

M/S/P (D.Nguyen/A.Martinez) Motion to approve meeting agenda for October 7, 2019.

***Motion Passed (7-0-0)***

**V. Chair's Report**

Chair Contreras thanked everyone for agreeing to serve on the committee. He mentioned that he is now serving on The University Corporation (TUC) Board of Directors.

TUC is building a new Restaurant and Conference Center for \$700,000 and project will end in 2021. TUC is signing a 70-year lease for a new hotel project with Hilton Hotel to replace the Orange Grove Bistro. There is concern with the development company Corvias. The developer company has a record for not keeping military homes up to date. Elizabeth Warren opposed them being on our campus. Chair Contreras mentioned that he shared with

TUC Board of his dissatisfaction with the development company and that we should consider no more corporate interest. The hotel will have positive impact for guests visiting CSUN, but concerns were raised by committee on how this hotel will benefit students. Chair Contreras mentioned that he raised the same question, including possible bed spaces for students who are facing homeless/housing insecurity and possibility for RTM students to have internships in the hotel. Chair Contreras spoke with representatives from Corvias and they informed him that they would reach out to him- they have not done so as of the meeting.

## **VI. Action Items**

### **A. Approval of Semester Schedule**

M/S/ (D.Nguyen/ S.Martinez) Motion to approve semester Fall D&I Committee Schedule

- i. November 4<sup>th</sup> 11:30am – 12:30pm
- ii. November 25<sup>th</sup> 11:30am – 1:30pm

M/S/P (J.Watson/ A.Martinez) Motion to amend the Semester Schedule to add December 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 1:30pm.

***Amendment Passed 7-0-0***

***Motion, as amended, passed 7-0-0.***

## **VII. Discussion Items**

### **A. Intros**

Committee members introduced themselves to the group. Pronouns and majors were shared. Pronouns can be found listed on the Roll Call above.

### **B. Community Agreements**

Chair Contreras and Co-Chair Alvarez shared the importance of having Community Guidelines for the meetings specially understanding the difficult conversation that will be shared in the committee. Co-Chair Alvarez shared that Community Guidelines are similar to ground rules or a structure committee members should follow when participating in the committee. Committee determined following Community Guidelines:

1. One Diva 1 Mic- Allow person speaking to finish their point before interrupting.
2. Vegas Rule- What is discussed here stays here, what is learned here can be shared out of the space.
3. Participate and engage with committee.
4. Respect people's pronouns
5. Attempt to have a ZERO waste meeting- instead of printing agenda/meeting minutes, send to everyone and encourage people to take notes electronically.
6. Respect people's identities and creative input- appreciate the diversity in the committee.
7. Have open ears – agree to disagree
8. Be respectful of each other/ have quality conversations
9. Think critically about cultural humility and not just cultural competence.  
Understand that we as individuals do not know everything so be open to ask critical questions.

### **C. Committee's Purpose**

Chair Contreras shared the purpose of the committee: The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will serve as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors offering a

critical analysis of how the USU can further enhance inclusivity within its policies, practices and programming efforts. He also shared that the committee will provide recommendations to the BOD about how the USU can be more inclusive as an organization. Chair Contreras also reviewed D&I related goals from the BOD that can be supported by this committee.

Executive Secretary Sanchez shared that the committee started as an Ad-hoc committee two years ago and last year was the first year of fully operating as a standing committee for the BOD.

**D. Committee Goals**

The committee discussed several goals and will be voted on at next committee meeting.

- i. Research on/off-campus services that will support students in the USU that are currently not offered or need further enhancement in the USU. Initial brainstorm of ideas will be shared by each committee member on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Final report will be collected in March 2020.
- ii. Meet with Black Leadership Council, Asian American Studies Pathway Project, Muslim Student Association, Revolutionary Scholars and other entities that request resources of the USU in order to understand the need for their respective organizations and to work collaboratively with Facilities & Commercial Services on developing a criteria for housing new programs/services in the USU.
  - a. Additional Notes: Meetings will be held in Fall 2019. Report to be completed by end of November 2019
- iii. Assist in developing the name, infrastructure, design and program service conceptualization regarding the cross cultural center/U-RISE – Unity in Race, Intersectionality, Social and Environmental Justice Center.

Respectfully Submitted by

Freddie Sanchez  
Executive Secretary