



**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2019, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM
GLENDALE 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	Javetta Watson (Absent)	Freddie Sánchez	Emery Hernandez
Matthew Contreras (Chair)	Alexandra Meza (Absent)		
Albert Martinez			
Shaileen Martinez			
Denise Nguyen			
Richard Rachman			

III. Open Forum

None

IV. Approval of Agenda

M/S/P (D. Nguyen/R.Rachman) Motion to amend agenda to include Approval of Committee Minutes.

Motion, as amended, passed (5-0-0).

V. Approval of Committee Minutes

M/S/P (A.Martinez/D.Nguyen) Motion to approve meeting minutes for November 4, 2019.

Motion Passed (5-0-0)

VI. Chair’s Report

Chair Contreras introduced the Emery Hernandez, BOD Administrative Support Coordinator. She will be assisting with the BOD.

Melanie, Matthew and Freddie have been attending various committee meetings about the construction and renovation project. The U-RISE Justice Center Committee met on Friday (11/22). The committee was working to solidify the name for the Center and we had a

thorough discussion but no consensus. Individuals are representing their individual areas and we are still not in agreement about a possible name.

Also, at the last BOD Meeting, Dr. Buenavista presented information about the DREAM Center because they would like to be part of the USU- It was just a proposal, nothing set yet. Dr. Buenavista's presentation can be an example we can use as a template when organizations are interested in joining the USU.

VII. Action Items

- A. N/A

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Cross Cultural Center Name Update

- i. There is a NIH grant that has the same name (u-RISE). Committee members stated RISE Justice Center is still close to the U-RISE, and asked if that would pose a problem. Committee also shared The CIRCLE doesn't provide context- is the building a CIRCLE/is the floor CIRCLE? However, once you understand the acronym, The CIRCLE makes it feel like a collaborative space (togetherness) in a space. Committee members shared RISE Justice Center might be too intimidating for students who might not feel social justice driven. Chair Contreras asked for committee members to share which name would be best supported, The CIRCLE- 4 votes, The RISE Justice Center – 2 votes.
- ii. Executive Secretary Sanchez asked committee members to provide a response to the following question, how would you like to feel when you walk into the space?
 - a. Responses: I want to feel like is something bigger; I want to feel I can go there and get what I need (resources); I want to know that when I go there I want to get what I went to go do, done; See friends; support services; Feel excited and hopeful; Help other people get these services; Get a sense of community; find support – like the Pride Center to get a chocolate; I want to feel like there are people like me who care for me; Feels like a hug; Feels thoughtful; Warm and Welcoming; Include voice and opinion; I want to feel unjudged! Executive Secretary asked what would it look like to feel unjudged: Wide open space; Warm lighting; Ambiance from the OASIS

B. Updates on community organizations

- i. Committee Member Rachman – Met with Build PODER & Women in Science
 - a. Build PODER has \$20 million dollars more successful grants on campus for science and historically underrepresented students. Build PODER had to become a student organization to reserve a room. They shared that USU Reservations is too cumbersome. They would like a Central place on campus to support more students.
 - b. Women in Science- They are a club- girls in science and technology. Neither meet in the USU. They find the scheduling to be an impediment. Committee Member shared that students would like to see more STEM events at USU. Clubs & Organizations from STEM programs- collaborative events. There were concerns about Women in Science and Title IX- Events just for women....it becomes an issue. Some of the members of the group shared that when some men come to the meeting they feel uncomfortable.
- ii. Committee Member A. Martinez Resilient Scholars – EOP (GINA)

a. Non State funded- Administered through grant – not secure funding. Supports Former or current foster youth. Students suffer more through Housing & Food Insecurity. Their budget is limited. The program is capped at 50 students. However they created a Resilient community about 450 students. They were awarded funding from the USU two years ago. It was awarded to support housing and food insecurity, however, in order to give the students funds- it needs to be sent to financial aid so it sometimes hindered availability of funds. Students may have a small fee and have a hold from registration which prevented enrollment. Resources are on a case by case basis. They provide their cap and gown when they graduated, conference support, they get priority registration and on certain cases they may get limited gift cards, possibly opening up food pantry for the resilient scholars. The grant is primarily used for foster youth from Community College to CSUN. How do they assess the need of students? There is an application process, they need to provide a court dependency letter. They have an office in EOP (2nd floor of Bayramian Hall).

iii. Committee Member S. Martinez – Women’s Research & Resource Center (Food Pantry) on Halsted

WRRC- They have 2 different collections (food & toiletries). They have a stock pile in the back of their room. They run drives at Yoga Studios. Shira Brown also shared the collaboration with the USU regarding the Wellness Vending Machine. They have a library and book rental. Most is GWS (Gender & Women Studies) related texts. At Pierce College they have Food Voucher program. What the vouchers look like- each department can print their own voucher and assign quantity. They are able to provide 2 vouchers a week. Recommend to see if the USU is able to support an initiative similar to Pierce College at the USU. Chair Contreras shared that food services is not operated by the USU, it is ran by The University Corporation-maybe get them to support an initiative like the one proposed. Committee member S. Martinez also contacted the North Hollywood interfaith food pantry which is open Mondays & Fridays 8 – 1pm – They don’t collect data. People can go pick up what they need. Committee member S. Martinez asked if there is a way for housing insecure and homeless students can have free soap and supplies for students in the SRC?

iv. Committee Member Nguyen- Trojan & Bruin Shelters. Larger organization called Student for Student Non-profit. They are reusing old housing buildings- hostel type living. Medical services and case management through the school of social work. Maybe something with the Northridge Hospital since dignity support students. Food and Meal newsletter (Facebook Group). Create notification system at the USU when there is something left over to provide food for students. Chair Contreras shared that AS is looking to create a system campus-wide.

C. Chair Contreras shared more direction will be provided to finalize committee member reports. Speak with on-campus and non-profit organizations. We are always looking for new ideas.

IX. Announcements

None

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm

Respectfully Submitted by

Freddie Sanchez
Executive Secretary