

Minutes: KU International Affairs Committee

Monday, April 01, 2019 | 2:00 pm | Marvin Hall 206C

Attendees: Kapila Silva (chair); Virginia Harper Ho (faculty); Seth Brooks (staff); Billie Archer (staff); Manuela Gonzales-Bueno (faculty); Charlie Bankart (ex. officio); Humberto Salinas (voting student); Alicia Watkins (visiting staff from KU IA)

Excused:

Absent: Peter Okpokodu (faculty); Radhia Abdirahman (voting student)

Call to Order at 2:00 pm.

Discussions:

1. Review/Approval of the Minutes of 03/18/2019 meeting
 - Virginia moved to approve the minutes, and Manuela seconded it.

2. Presentation on Intercultural Learning & Assessment Unit at KU IA (Allison Watkins)
 - 250 KU staff have completed some of the intercultural classes. Over 100 have completed all three parts.
 - Take part in GTA workshops, workshops for students, for CEBC, International student orientations, and more.
 - Promote intercultural competency and global awareness.
 - In July, will have virtual sessions with University of Bonn and University of Costa Rica. Will be a way to leverage international partnerships.
 - 7 years ago, started the staff development workshops on various topics.
 - Had participation from various offices across campus.
 - This led to considering ways to institutionalize it which led to building International Skills Workshop. Started as one and developed into a 3-part series.
 - Designed to also help staff feel more confident in interacting with international students.
 - Have discussed ways to help international students to feel prepared in a course. They are trying to implement an American Studies catered international students to help them get up to date on critical issues and understand the current climate.
 - Have done various outreaches but are still wanting to more fully reach out to faculty which has not happened much yet.

Allison asked the committee for recommendations on how to better engage the campus and develop diversity.

- Kapila clarified if the trainings were geared towards American students/staff or for the students.
- Allison clarified that it was more for Americans to learn.
- Kapila asked if there is some sort of unit to direct students to if they have a communicational issue.

- Allison responded that they would help with that. It wouldn't be a hotline, but they would respond within 24 hours.
- Kapila emphasized the importance of engaging with the faculty.
- Virginia asked what the assessment piece is of the office.
- Allison explained that the assessment part is still in development. They are discussing with Charlie what it would look like.
- Virginia explained that the spiritual and religious dimension of cultures is often underemphasized. The western segregation of religious elements from personal life is a recent cultural development here but is not the case in many other countries.
- Humberto spoke of his experience of cultural training as an RA which is one session of two hours.
- It is structured as western culture versus non-western culture which doesn't account well for many countries.
- A very large percentage of the training was on gender identity (estimate 80-90%) while a small amount was intercultural (estimate 10%).
- He suggested that maybe we could have an international student speak into this. A big role could go to the students to help educate American students. Humberto noted that his American friends have learned more about other countries just from being friends than they probably do from classes.
- Kapila suggested to Allison that there may be a way to engage with the international student programs.
- Virginia explained that students and teachers should be responsible to do this and suggested considering ways to encourage engagement in international opportunities or with the international community. Could use exercises like those that they have international students do of going to engage and talk with someone from another country.
- Manuela felt that the busyness of faculty and staff as being a hindrance for engagement with these useful trainings and events.

Inclusion of International Students

- Charlie mentioned that they are currently working to deal with the campus concept that inclusion and diversity does not focus on international issues within that realm.

3. Discussion on the draft of the Final Report

Discussion of the smoking policy section

- Charlie discussed that the information is useful as it showed the impact the method of implementation had on international students. It did show an overall positive reception, but that some students felt "left out in the cold".
- Virginia asked if we need to directly pull the verbiage from the policy for the religious/cultural exemption. The committee decided to add this information.
- The committee agreed to remove the recommendation for a smoking free area, considering that the charge is just to study the effects and provide information. Also, there seemed to be a greater importance on recommending improved communication.

Discussion of moving recommendations four to number one.

- The committee decided to take out recommendation 1 and move number 4 up to 1.

- The committee adjusted some wording as noted on hard copies of the report.
- 4. The committee reviewed the 7-Year Enrollment Goals for KU Direct Recruitment Goal document
 - Decided to not include in the final report but to attach to the minutes for this meeting.

Adjourned at 3:05