Committee on Diversity and Equity
April 15, 2020

Meeting Notes: Prepared by Traci Jennings

Members Present: Kali Murray, William Welburn (Ex Officio), Sameena Mulla, Ashley Faytol, Lisa Edwards, Janice Welburn, Breanna Flowers, Mauricio Garnier, Joshua Knox, Karen Roberts (On Sabbatical)

I. Review of Last Meeting

A. Prof. Kali Murray announced that she will serve as Acting Chair until the Committee determines a new chair at May 13, 2020.
B. Members reviewed the December Meeting Notes. The Committee will need to send all copies of meeting notes to Cindy Petrites.
C. Prof. Murray made a motion to adopt minute meetings and Dean Janice Welburn seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

II. Meeting Agenda

A. The Committee Meeting discussed the Committee’s response to the ongoing public health crisis caused by COVID-19.

1. Prof. Murray has been approached by two professors requesting a sort of guidance for faculty for how to manage remote learning and diversity and inclusion during online teaching
2. Prof. Mulla is requesting that the University perhaps do a survey of students’ technologies needs and although we cannot change students’ environments, but there are ways we can make faculty more understanding of equity concerns. The goal is to empower people who are already doing the work and to make aware those who have not been sensitive to students.
3. Prof. Garnier suggests that there is a survey that asks about how comfortable a student is studying at home – this gets more at their situation overall rather than just technological deficiencies.
4. Dean Welburn notes that both the IT Department and the Library have attempted to students’ technological needs.
5. Vice President Welburn raises the question of how well the University has recognized that students were vastly unprepared to go online
6. Prof. Murray notes that the Counseling Center cannot advise through teletherapy (although Prof. Mulla mentions that this might be changing soon in response to state regulation).
7. Traci and Ashley share their perspectives as students
   a. Law School has not offered many resources in general (technology or otherwise)
   b. Ashley says her college has offered technological resources.
8. William Welburn explains that the University will be receiving about $3M to help students during the crisis. The funding will go to students under dire need.
9. Prof. Garnier suggests the Committee should create a guiding document for students that includes resources the University is offering
- Dean Welburn and Vice President Welburn suggest that the landing page on D2L with this resource. There was concern expressed related to professional student access to D2L.
- Prof. Garnier emphasizes that Marquette needs to understand that COVID-19, it is disproportionately affecting Black and Latino students.

10. The Committee created a Guidance Letter Committee: Prof. Mulla will create a shared word document that will be edited and distributed to Prof. Murray, Prof. Welburn, Ashley and Traci.

11. Prof. Garnier will write a short summary for the D2L page related to diversity and equity. However, the Committee wanted to wait as to that recommendation depending on the Final Draft of a Student Guide on these issues before making the D2L recommendation.

The meeting concluded.