Minutes, Diversity Initiatives

Time: Monday, September 21, 2009

Location: UCIC

Attending:

Director: Brent Hopkins

Students at-Large: Lee Monson, Yung Cheng Chang

Call to Order

Old Business: None

New Business

1. Need to recruit more Committee members. Need one Student Senator and one Student at-Large. Director Hopkins requested to put the word out and actively recruit. Lee Monson indicated that he is running for Student Senate; in the event he is elected then that would satisfy the need for a Student Senator, but then we would need an additional Student at-Large.
2. Director Hopkins mentioned that the Student Senate has chartered a Diversity and Inclusivity Center Ad-Hoc Committee and Lee Monson indicated he has applied to be on that Committee.
3. Director Hopkins then solicited suggestions for projects the Diversity Initiatives Committee should take on in order to fulfill its mission. Several ideas were proposed, including:
    a. Study the issue of recruiting and retention of diverse groups of students at UWRF. Identify the main challenges, possible solutions, and present these findings and recommendations to Student Senate.

b. Sponsor a Networking event which would provide a structured setting for diverse groups of students to gather and interact with other students outside of their usual social setting.
c. Evaluate how well the needs of foreign-origin students are being met. Identify the main challenges, possible solutions, and present these findings and recommendations to Student Senate.
d. Explore the possibility of promoting a "buddy system" where foreign-origin students would be paired with domestic students as a "go-to" person to assist with common difficulties such as language barrier or locating local resources.
e. Assist ASA in securing a new office space.
f. Assist other student organizations in implementing overlapping goals.

4. Since some or all of these ideas may already be planned or implemented by other student organizations, the Diversity Initiatives Committee unanimously agreed to do some investigation and fact-finding during the following week. Findings will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Unanimous agreement. Next meeting to be Monday, September 28, 2009 at the UCIC.