

NIH DIVERSITY COUNCIL

National Institutes of Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



January 16, 2008

NIAMS Conference Room, Bldg 31, 4C32
Bethesda, MD

Attendance:

Members present

Aviles-Mendoza, Guillermo
Elwood, William (Chairman)
Haley, Jennifer
James, Fred
Spencer, Jane
Whitley, Alfred

Ex-Officio Members present

Butler, Sharrell
Richard Medina

Guest

Roland Corsey

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bill Elwood, Chair at 2:35 p.m.

Dr. Elwood greeted the committee expressing his pleasure on having this opportunity to get together for the first time since the Time for Diversity event Dec. 5th, '07. Review of the January minutes was postponed.

1. A Time for Diversity feedback

- a) Dr. Elwood asked for feedback on the event from the Councilors'; comments included: Molly Vallant thought it was good overall; except weather (snow / sleet) and that next time it would be better to do the lectures and displays at the same location. Jane Spencer agreed; she noted as the positives that the event provided time for council members to interact with the public and participating employee groups; she was concerned about deaf employee's participation. She suggested providing courses on SLA; her observance of the number of people passing through the Clinical Center during the event and how people reacted – a reluctance to interact and that some avoided eye contact; she felt it crucial to

develop ways to make it clear this is an inclusive activity. Bill reiterated the weather had had an impact on the Diversity event; causing the setup to be slow; however attendance was pretty good, participants stayed and traded contact information for future partnerships and even coordinated on the spot – Bill spoke with Arlyn that she will share a new person. He was pleased that the NIH Academy members participated. Participants want to do again. Bill picked up Research posters & put up with Fred’s help. Guillermo took down (same) and returned. Bill has already sent Thank you email and preparing certificates to give with photos -had samples of text to share with council; Bill has certificate paper and presentation folders.

- b) Face of Diversity ~100 contacts was made.
- c) Science of Diversity - Jennifer helped; Molly noted special effects of Bill & energy. Bill –“do we want to do it again?” Response/ “Yes - especially celebrating element of science.” OLR NIH Academy members introduced 2 of the scientist presenters (honor, pipeline experience). Molly –this helps increase visibility of the council.

2. New Subjects

- a) There were questions on having Diversity Day and a Time for Diversity. A Time for Diversity - The council wants to have the art portion of the event again. One idea was to have art made by patients instead of the Special Emphasis posters used at last year’s program. The poster session for Take Your Child to Work Day could be used as an opportunity to get art. Jane Spencer suggested that council members volunteer to talk to the Children’s Inn explain diversity to the children who will then make posters of “What Diversity Means to Them.” Jane stated that she will contact and work with the Children’s Inn. A motion was made to have “A Time for Diversity” event the 1st Wednesday in December ’08. Fred James seconded the motion. All agreed. Jennifer Haley will look into Lipsett Auditorium to have the event. Diversity Day – Will this event be held in July? Will there be food? More information on this event will be at next meeting.
- b) Introduced Richard Medina; he gave a brief rundown of his background
- c) Awards ceremony - This event is usually annually in January. Bill gave outgoing members certificates and acknowledged leadership, noted council staff work, and past presidents acknowledged. The council could recognize people who assisted with “A Time for Diversity.” Questions as to do the council want to connect to Diversity Day? Alfred Whitley recommended that we have a separate awards ceremony. Awardees are Michele France, Andrea Wongsam-Nollinger, Jared Jobe, and Shen Yang. Other questions presented included: When is the EEO Director’s award given, and can the Diversity Council propose nominees.

3. ASL Outreach

Individual with disabilities are often looked over. Jane teaches a mini SLA sign language awareness course of 120 signs. An idea was given to have a training session to be developed for all of NIH. Jane Spencer will take on this project.

4. Next Meeting will be February 20, 2008.

Bill called meeting adjournment at 4:00 p.m.