

Skyline College
Stewardship for Equity, Equal Employment and Diversity (SEEED)
Advisory Committee
November 20, 2006

MEETING MINUTES

Members: Lori Adrian, Linda Allen, Rosie Bell, John Chavez, Donna Elliott,
Melissa Komadina, Vicki Morrow and Richard Soyombo.
Recorder: Linda Ghio

Absent: Linda Allen, Amory Cariadus

Review and approval of minutes of October 16, 2006

Melissa said that Gerry Frassetto visited the Academic Senate to tell about his work. The Senate asked what his point of coordination would be at the college and Vicki said it would be SEEED. The minutes were approved as written.

Review of the current program for “Who Are We – Fascinating Rhythms”

Rosie drafted a letter about the book assignment entitled “Fascinating Rhythms...you got me on the go!” and it was approved by the Academic Senate for distribution to faculty. It includes information on the back about ways that faculty can use the book project as a bank assignment for students. The bank assignment is something she has used with her students and it has been successful. She printed it up, had it ready to stuff, and realized that SEEED has not reviewed it. She asked for their input. Vicki suggested that the title could be changed to “Bank or Extra Credit” using the words extra credit so instructors would recognize it. Vicki asked if the letter or document mentioned that this was a sample since there are a lot of different ways to use this as extra credit. Rosie said that the second sentence in paragraph 3 in the cover letter it states that it is an example. The SEEED Committee read it and thought it was fine and there was no need to reprint. After reviewing the questions in the sample “Bank” document, Melissa asked what would happen if a student already answered the same question in another class. Rosie said she has not had that happen, but if they sign up for both classes they get extra credit for both. Rosie is assigning the reading project for all of her classes and it is a bank assignment, except for her honors class, where it will be required. Vicki said she got an email from Kevin Chak and he would like to set up a display for the book that will be featured. Rosie’s assistant Priscilla will help him with the display. The SEEED committee approved the letter as written. Priscilla will stuff the letter on November 21 and it will be distributed on Monday, November 27. Carla Campillo will send it out electronically to the Academic Senate and Vicki will include it as an attachment with the next *Skyline Shines*. Rosie will speak with Shelly Hausman about posting it on the SEEED website.

Review of John Santos website

Rosie forwarded a link to the committee about CSM music instructor John Santos, who is an accomplished Latin/salsa musician. His website is www.johnsantos.com In addition she found two other potential speakers. John Ulloa is professor of history and

anthropology at Skyline and the other is Hafez Modirzadeh, associate professor of jazz and music at San Francisco State University. He is described as an Iranian-American saxophonist and professor of music. The committee can view his website at fezmo@sfsu.edu and listen to his music at <http://listento/hafez>. Vicki wants to know if all of these people are equipped to talk to the college broadly about musicology and in the context that SEED is trying to create with the event as opposed to providing a narrow musician's eye view. Rosie said the division deans at the colleges may know about the qualifications of these prospects. Regarding John Santos, Rosie said he is predominately a Latin/Caribbean jazz musician and Grammy-award nominee and he describes himself as an ethno musicologist. Rosie suggested that a few members of the committee meet with him.

Richard asked if the committee is going in the wrong direction by focusing on jazz music and Rosie said that the focus is not just on jazz. She envisions someone like John Santos doing one of the presentations, Jude Navari and the Skyline choir a particular type of music, African drums, and other things to bring a cross section of music. Richard asked if they can talk to the college in the context that it wants, how would the presentations relate to what SEED wants to do, and how does the college create a story around each person. Rosie said if she got the approval by the committee she would like to talk to these three people initially before asking others. She has talked to John Ulloa already and could arrange to meet with John Santos and Hafez Modirzadeh after Thanksgiving. She asked if the committee has questions that could be posed to them.

The committee discussed in a general way if it makes sense for Rosie to meet with them and Melissa asked if meeting with them means that the college is asking them to make a presentation. Rosie said she would just be checking to see if they are what the committee is looking for, specifically an ethno musicologist who can tie the program together. Rosie said that Hafez refers to himself an ethno musicologist. Lori asked what an ethno musicologist is and what kind of qualifications is the committee looking for that would indicate that either of these people are what we are looking for. Vicki said an ethno musicologist is someone who would have a broad sense of music in the U.S. That person would be able to speak to some of the diverse musical threads that make up the American music landscape. The committee would want to ask what their training is, what the disciplines were, when and where the work was done, and what did they do their work on. They would need to be a qualified academic. Richard said it would be someone who can talk about the influence of music on culture and culture on music who may have a book, writings, or something that documents their experience. Vicki said to consider the qualifications as if we were starting an ethno music program at Skyline and it may be someone who represents Pilipino and African music. Richard said we should consider people from other backgrounds as well. Rosie said she is looking at these suggestions for the talk and musical performances. She drafted a sample calendar of events:

February:

- African drums in Gallery Theatre. Someone will have to give a talk or have a handout for the students so they can participate, then a performance.
- Taiko Drums (Rosie may have a contact at her Japanese church)

- Native American dance (Sherri Hancock can assist)
- Pilipino drumming/percussion (Liza Erpelo can assist)
- “A Month of Drumming”

March:

- Music by John Ulloa
- Mestizo, classic Latin rock
- Female band since March is women’s history month.
- Movie
- “A Month of Strumming”

April:

- Photo collage in the gallery theatre throughout the month
- Reflection papers posted throughout the month

April 18

- 12 noon: - Guest speaker to speak for 45 minutes, plus Q&A session
 - Food and vendors with background music in the new Student Center

April 19

- Evening: - Guest speaker, plus Q&A session
 - Concert

SEED wants to have a good cross section of music. John Santos and John Ulloa may overlap in terms of style, so Rosie advised that they be kept separate. Richard can help with Brazilian and African musical performers. Rosie asked if Richard can research a drummer/speaker who teaches African arts and culture who could serve as a speaker in April. She will speak with Skyline music instructor Frank Markovitz regarding a bluegrass performance and perhaps Jude Navari’s choir can perform English and Irish folk songs. John said the college will want to keep a record of the performances.

Lori suggested that SEED provides cultural background information on the student population to the speakers and ask how they would engage these groups in terms of music and what their different cultural contributions are. Melissa liked the idea of drumming and said that the college could have an art display on drums.

Photo collage:

In the fall of 2007 Skyline is following up on the theme “Who Are We...Fascinating Rhythms” with “Who Are We...We Are Everyone.” Common Ground will be doing this project. Common Ground was founded by Bridget Fischer, Lori Slicton and Rosie using money received from a bequest. They are considering Faces of America which costs about \$5,000. This will be less expensive than the Hopper Project, which was \$10,000. Rosie has prepared a handout that describes what they are looking for which would invite people to be a part of this campus-wide project by providing their history and their story. It would be an ongoing project. People would supply an 8x10 inch photo if possible and a paragraph of 40 words or less that describes where the photo was taken and why this photo is meaningful to them. She is approaching SEED members, ASSC, and other staff and faculty to participate in this project now for display in the spring of 2007. Rosie

is hoping it will be like the project done at San Diego's Mesa College. For the fall of 2007 the project will include:

- Photo collage
- Reflection paper, 40 words or less
- Video with an interracial/interethnic theme entitled "*Mixed Feelings*", will be shown
- Seminar on intercultural marriage, intercultural dating, intercultural parenting

Richard asked how this ties in with "Who Are We...We Are Everyone" and are people identifying who influenced them, as well as exposing social diversity, ethnic diversity, and cultural diversity. Lori confirmed that and said the focus is on a person's cultural past and how it influenced them. Rosie said the fall 2007 event is not a SEEED event but is a Common Ground event. The goal is to have SEEED help with this. Lori asked what the overarching mission of Common Ground is and Rosie said Common Ground is a bridging of community and ideas in a venue where people can discuss issues and concerns, whether global or campus issues, in a safe environment. Rosie started the Gay Straight Alliance and had a student come in to a meeting and made nasty remarks. There were 18 people in the group and Rosie thought that something needed to be done to enlighten people on these issues and Lori and Bridget came on board. The first discussion they held focused on words and images that wound. Hate images were shown and talked about and a presentation was held in the theatre called, "I Can't Believe You Said That" Rosie said it was an excellent discussion. Common Ground went on to do things on voting, the Legacy Project and on the holocaust project. Vicki said that at this moment there is a merger of topics between Common Ground and SEEED with the diversity days project. Richard suggests adding to Common Ground a topic from an international student's perspective of what it is like to come to Skyline so we can hear from the student population.

Lori said it is good that the committee is talking about holding this project in a long-term way and there may be collaboration between the different diversity groups on campus. Vicki said it is good that these groups are intersecting and it may lead to even better offerings. Vicki said that the college is going to be including funding for the SEEED project as a standing budget item so it is not a one-time event. Richard commended Rosie on all of her work.

Lori said that since the spring 2007 photo collage will be very limited, she would want to make sure there is a good cross section of groups represented. She will talk to Luis Padilla about it. Donna Elliott could help identify classified staff and it would be good to have the learning communities participate. Rosie is hoping that the SEEED committee could submit their photo and essay by December 11. The photo will influence what people write and it will need to be scanned, matted and framed. Rosie will email the photo and writing criteria to the SEEED committee.

Planning for the Reflection paper

The reflection paper will be the classroom assignment and will be longer than the photo essay. Rosie asked the committee to look at the back of the Bank assignment for an example. See her items below. Rosie said that the reflection paper that she assigns in her class asks students who they are, where they are from, what they like or don't like about who they are, do they feel that they have assimilated into this country. It is just something to get them to start thinking about themselves. Lori said she thought that the reflection paper was a response to "Who Are We" or remembrances and does it still fit. Vicki asked if it is framed in a way so that recent immigrants can respond to the questions and Rosie said it is. People may write that they feel left out or that they do not have cultural experience. They may write about the stereotypes of their race that don't they like. Lori said we are asking students to write about their identity and is it shaped by their cultural background or educational background. Melissa said that she has an assignment that asks students, "What does society think they are, and who are they really?" The concept is based on the YaYa Box and she will email it to Rosie. Lori liked the idea because Melissa's idea is open-ended. Vicki asked how all of this information fits in with the project now and what will happen to these papers. Rosie said it will be offered in the context of a class. Stories can be ultimately scanned and put in a book along with a photo. Vicki said that the best way to make the paper happen is if it is given as a class assignment because the college is weaving two things together in the spring classes: the book and the paper.

Funding the project

Lori asked if there will be additional funding for the project and Vicki will find out what our budget is for honorariums. She will talk to Rosie about it. Lori said there is a vending fund that may be available and she will talk to Amory about what they could contribute. Richard asked if the events will be open to the public and can Skyline sell tickets. Vicki said it has to be free but the college does ask for contributions for events held in the Gallery Theatre. Press releases can be done and Rosie spoke with Shelly Hausman, Public Information Officer, who agreed to help.

One Book, One Community – The Kite Runner

Vicki said the One Book, One Community project was discussed at a previous meeting and she was not sure if the project was a countywide project. Donna thought it was, but Lori thought it was a community project like Faces of America. Vicki said that Barbara Daley asked if the college wanted to have a photo exhibit here. Vicki felt that the SEED committee has a lot to do with the diversity days project, and unless it is easy to do and someone wants to do it, she recommends that we do not. Donna said if the library wants to take it on they could certainly do it themselves.

Next meeting: December 18

Vicki asked if the SEED members felt it would be a conflict to hold this meeting with faculty being gone. Rosie said she can attend, although Melissa will not. Linda, Donna, Lori and Vicki will attend.