

Skyline College
Stewardship for Equity, Equal Employment and Diversity (SEEED)
Advisory Committee
January 28, 2008

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Rosie Bell, Amory Cariadus, John Chavez, Barbara Daley, Vicki Morrow, and Phyllis Taylor. Guest: Gerry Frasseti. Recorder: Linda Ghio

Absent: Lori Adrian, Donna Elliott, Melissa Komadina, Nancy Lam and Richard Soyombo

Review and approval of November minutes

The minutes from November 19, 2007 were approved as written.

Review of SEEED events calendar

Phyllis compiled a fall 2007 calendar of SEEED activities and events which is readily accessible and is basically for record-keeping purposes. She also distributed the spring 2008 SEEED calendar. Flyers announcing Skyline's African American History month were created. The month will be a celebration of music and includes film presentations and performances. A gospel group that had been scheduled withdrew and Phyllis and Tony Jackson are trying to get a replacement. The "Coats for Comedy" event on February 22 will feature three different comedians and Amory said that if an attendee brings in a coat, it will be donated to charity. ASSC student Wendy Smith came up with the idea. Amory noted that the ASSC is meeting this week and will be discussing a price change on the tickets for Coats for Comedy. She will notify Phyllis of the revised ticket price.

The WOW! Women on Writing Conference is in March. Students can earn hours by arrangement or extra credit or hours for attending or they can also volunteer. Barbara asked if any instructors are using the book, *Madras on Rainy Days* in their courses. She has been trying to get new and used copies of the book for the library and has been unsuccessful. Phyllis suggested she ask Connie Beringer. Phyllis noted that there is nothing planned for April at this point and May will feature Asian Pacific American Heritage month and Cinco de Mayo. Amory suggested that the February 8 Fashion Show that Cosmetology is holding should be included in the calendar. Phyllis will contact Nancy Lam to get more information. Phyllis said Josie Glenn may be doing an event on hair and clothing during African American history month and that would also be included on the February calendar.

New Business

As professional development coordinator, Phyllis regularly receives email from the district about grant projects that Skyline may want to apply for. She will forward the information to the SEEED Committee. One is from the California ACLU, which includes a list of previous grant recipients and the funds received. Vicki asked if this

could be used to fund a film project and Phyllis thought it might be possible. She also has the National Endowment for the Humanities grant information and there are opportunities for community colleges.

Barbara reported that Peninsula Library System has decided on a book for its One Book project and it will be Dave Egger's book about the Sudanese Lost Boys, *What is the What*, and he will be the featured speaker. Phyllis said she understood that these Sudanese men are approachable as speakers. She would be willing to try to contact one of the men who appeared in a film that she saw about the Sudanese Lost Boys called *God Grew Tired of Us*. According to film, he lives in New York. Vicki said it could even be submitted as a PIF proposal for 2008. The Dave Eggers event will also be in the fall and Barbara will provide the committee with the date.

Facing History and Ourselves

Rosie contacted Facing History and Ourselves and they would be willing to come and present here. The contact person there asked Rosie what the SEEED Committee wanted and she told him she would get back to him. They do a lot of programs and online programs in the Bay Area. Vicki reviewed the discussion that SEEED had about Facing History in the November meeting. Gerry Frassetto proposed doing a project where existing faculty would do diversity projects with their students and then they would train others. Rosie suggested that SEEED look into Facing History and Ourselves because the projects are similar and Vicki asked the SEEED Committee to review Facing History's website. Vicki said the projects were geared to middle- and high-school students and suggested the Facing History representative could talk to SEEED about what Facing History has at the college level. John noticed on the site that Oceana High School is one of the schools they worked for so maybe he could tell us what they did. Phyllis said what they are most currently talking about are mass violence and genocide and this seems to be a tie-in with what SEEED is looking into doing in the fall, including Rosie's class on the holocaust. Rosie will see if her contact at Facing History is available to present at the March 24 SEEED meeting. Barbara said there are two books that might be appropriate for the fall. One is *The Zookeeper's Wife*, a story about a Polish couple who hid Jews from the Nazis during World War II and *Three Apples Fell from Heaven*, a book about the Armenian genocide by Bay Area author Micheline Aharonian Marcom.

Earth Day, April 22

Vicki said at one point the SEEED Committee was talking about using Al Gore's book for a reading project around Earth Day. She is not sure that SEEED is doing something for Earth Day, but it is not totally disconnected. Rosie wondered if SEEED can find something about how global warming affects indigenous populations. She said one of her students, Ann Szobiak, is doing a project called "Who Owns the Arctic," which she is presenting at Stanford and she is looking at it from the environmental angle and how it affects the Inuit people. Phyllis said maybe Skyline's economics and political science teachers may know something about it. It could be a possibility for Earth Day. It might give the student an opportunity to practice it here first, if she is willing and Vicki said it

would be good and she will not have to do any special preparation for it. Rosie will speak with the student and then talk to Phyllis about it.

SEED and the presidential election

Phyllis asked if SEED can do something about the election since there is a possibility that there may be a woman or an African American president elected. Rosie said her class is covering the primaries – each student is assigned a state and will be covering demographics, caucuses, etc. Rosie would also like to see SEED do something and suggested the college do something in the early fall before the election. It would mean that SEED would have to organize it right away. Phyllis said a few years ago, Skyline held a similar event and there were a couple of reporters here. Phyllis was the moderator and she and Rosie asked the questions. One of the reporters was a Republican election analyst and the other was a Democratic analyst and in was in the fall of 2003. Vicki asked if SEED could find people who would be willing to do this. She would make the calls personally if that would increase Skyline's chances of getting people. Vicki thinks getting a pair representing opposing points of view, from a pure educational point of view, is wonderful. She attends the Progress Seminar each spring run by the San Mateo and Redwood City Chambers of Commerce and the people who attend are city council members, county supervisors, city staff, and business leaders and what they often do on Sunday morning is to have two local political commentators, who both write and speak routinely and provide a very lively program. One is Mark Simon, who also happens to be a Skyline alumnus; the other is Bob Marks, political consultant. Vicki said it can be very informative and also entertaining. Rosie suggested Carlos Colombetti, Mike Moynihan, Jon Freedman, or A.J. Bates who are all possibilities. Phyllis will also mention it to Fermin Irigoyen.

Next meeting: February 25 in Room 5131

An ongoing topic called New Business will be added to the agenda.