October 11, 2018

Updates and Action Steps since the publication of the “Final Report and Recommendations from the Presidential Task Force on Campus” Document, published April 11, 2018

Accomplished

Academic Year 2017/18: English 401, a required course for all first-year students, now integrates more diverse perspectives and research methodologies across its pedagogical arena. Professor Teresa Redd led workshops on best practices for including diverse literature and research using diverse voices.

Spring 2018: Unity Day, organized by the Office of the Dean of Students, is a student-led volunteer community clean-up. It was created as a positive counter to the negative events of the 2017 Cinco de Mayo.


Fall 2018: Established the President’s Advisory Council on Campus Climate, chaired by Monica Chiu (interim AVP of Community, Equity, and Diversity 2018-19), which will regularly apprise the president of how well the campus is addressing challenges pinpointed by the Council and, after spring 2019, those brought forth by the campus climate survey.

Fall 2018: Inclusion, on the MyCourses master calendar, of dates that are important to religious and other groups so professors and those who use it for syllabi and/or planning can be duly apprised.

Fall 2018 and ongoing: Presidents and interim AVP of CED lunches with Chinese students, athletes of color, others TBD. For an afternoon in October, the president held “office hours” for individual students; appointments were made online.

Forthcoming

Spring 2019: Community, Equity and Diversity will conduct a campus-wide climate survey, directed by Rankin & Associates. Its results will inform future action steps.

2018/19: Senior leadership (the President’s Cabinet and the Deans’ Council) will participate in a two-part educational workshop on leadership, inclusivity, and higher education, to be conducted by a regional consulting group.

Under discussion and/or construction:

Creation of Diversity & Inclusion Committees in all campus units (academic departments, the library, cooperative extension, and to be expanded to other units incrementally) to address how each unit can meet inclusion goals; chairs of each unit will meet, as a group, with Monica Chiu; meetings provide assistance for departmental challenges around inclusion; exchange of ideas; inclusive diversity and pedagogical best practices by college; accountability; committees will report to the deans; Monica will report to the President.

Formation of the Provost’s Committee on student retention; includes four working groups.
Development of a diversity post-doctoral initiative from the provost’s office, across colleges, through the Office of Engagement and Faculty Development, with a goal of growing campus diversity and attracting early-career faculty to UNH.

Creation of a continuously updated portal to list campus-wide activities related to diversity, equity and inclusion as they are announced and posted.

**Fall 2018 Related Programming**

Center for Social Innovation and Enterprise, Paul College, invited speaker Chris Larkin of IDEO.org. for an interactive session on learning about Human Centered Design: An Empathy-Based Approach to Problem Solving.

MUB Current Issues Lecture Series:

- Jason & Marjorie Crigler: living/working with a disability
- Dylan Marron: “Bridging the Cultural Divide Through Media and Video”
- Amal Kassir: “Speaking Out about Islamophobia and Empowering the Voice of the Marginalized Through Writing and Speaking”

Dept. of Communications’ Civil Discourse Lab: offering a course on building dialogues across difference and strengthening skillsets needed when opposing points of view are being aired. The department also invited Prof. Caracasson, Founder and Director of the Center for Public Deliberation at Colorado State University, to train students in “Tackling Wicked Problems: Students as Key Local Resources for Community Deliberation.”

Treat Foundation grant through the Carsey Institute includes fellowships for students on a dialogue-to-action process that transforms relationships and creates and sustains informed community change.