

FLITE Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 15, 2010

Present: Fran Rosen, Mari Kermit-Canfield, Randall Schroeder, Emily Mitchell, Yuri Konovalov

- I. Upcoming Diversity Report
 - a. Ferris is putting together a report on all the diversity activities /initiatives on campus.
 - b. It is due December 10.
 - c. Mari said she will write it, highlighting:
 - i. FLITE's "small collaborations" with OMSS and the International Center.
 1. Space sharing
 2. Signage
 - ii. The Personal Librarian program as a major, in-process initiative.
 - iii. The research guides Mari has been putting together (and everyone else will be helping with henceforth).
 - d. Randall has been in contact with Mikael Snitker-Magin about training FLITE staff on the Adaptive Technologies Room's equipment; that could go into the report, too.
- II. Diversity Research Guides
 - a. Mari talked to Michael Wade, who loved the idea of the research guides.
 - i. However, he did not respond to e-mail requests for a list of upcoming events guides could be tied to.
 - ii. He also had said he would link to our guides from the OMSS page, but the page has not yet been updated to do that.
 - b. Mari has put together a guide for Native American History Month.
 - i. This guide has been advertised on the FLITE newsfeed.
 - ii. Emily said she would talk to Stacy about tweeting / posting this to Facebook.
 - c. Sign-ups for future diversity guides
 - i. Fran requested that we add World AIDS Day (Dec. 1) and International Healthcare Week (Dec. 6-10) to our list of events.
 1. The Fred Weston art show that Fran thought would tie in well with World AIDS Day turns out to be in April instead of December, but a guide made for World AIDS Day could easily be tweaked to work for the art show later on.
 - ii. Fran asked whether guides should be linked to specific events.
 1. The consensus seemed to be that events were good inspiration and a good excuse to advertise diversity guides, but we should not be limited exclusively to them.
 - iii. Fran mentioned that the Festival of the Arts is going to have some nationally known actors doing a piece about black / Jewish relations.
 1. This might be a good tie-in for a diversity guide.
 - iv. Fran also pointed out that we should include guides for Hispanic Heritage Month and something about immigrants.

1. Randall said that if there's no rush on it, he can take the guide about immigration.
 - v. Randall said he would do the Islam diversity guide (deadline ASAP) and the African-American History / MLK Week guide (deadline MLK Day), as well as Jewish American History Month (deadline May).
 - vi. Mari will do the Irish-American Month guide, tied in to the show on campus by the Jeremy Kittel World Band (deadline Feb.). Mari will also do the Take Back the Night / Domestic Violence Awareness guide (deadline April).
 - vii. Fran will take the guide for World AIDS Day (deadline Dec. 1) and International Healthcare Week (deadline Dec. 6), unless International Healthcare Week turns out to be less of a big deal than anticipated.
 - viii. Emily will take Environmental Awareness Month (deadline April) and Asian/Pacific Heritage Month (deadline May).
 - ix. Yuri will do the guide for globalization (deadline UN Day—Jan. 1)
- d. LibData
- i. Randall and Yuri will need logins for LibData.
 1. Mari thinks only Rick can create new logins.
 - ii. Mari will create shells for the guides, since ordinary LibData users don't have the rights to do that. Once the guides are created, they can be assigned to whoever is covering each topic to fill in.
 - iii. Emily will help anyone who needs LibData help; perhaps by holding a training session?

III. Personal Librarians

- a. Fran has been in touch with the Ferris Youth Initiative (FYI), and that program would like to get involved with a Personal Librarian program.
 - i. FYI would probably only be about 12 students, so we might want to consider also piloting the program with another, larger group.
- b. Mari pointed out that international students are a good-sized group (about 150 students).
 - i. Yuri thought the international students would be interesting to work with.
 - ii. Fran pointed out that international students already have better supportive infrastructure than other minority students, and so might need a personal librarian less than other groups do.
- c. Mari asked how many TIP students (750 total) would be incoming freshmen.
 - i. Since TIP students are in two-year degrees, the assumption is that 300-400 would be freshmen.
 1. That might be too many.
 - ii. Could we pilot the program with just a subset of incoming TIP freshmen?
- d. Randall pointed out that even if we started small—perhaps with just the FYI students—it would still be a starting point, and we could always expand the program later.
 - i. We also need to be careful not to just barge into this; it needs to be a partnership with whoever is coordinating the program we work with.

- e. FYI has already expressed an interest in collaborating on this project.
 - i. The FLITE Diversity Committee agrees that we should pilot a Personal Librarian project with FYI.
 - f. Should we work with another program, too?
 - i. Emily expressed concern about biting off more than we can chew, and ending up not being able to live up to our promises.
 - ii. We could talk to one or both of OMSS and the International Center, and see whether they would be interested.
 - 1. Piram Prakasam (Director of the Office of International Education) is out of town until January.
 - a. We could talk to Shana Beisiegel instead, or just e-mail Piram.
 - 2. Emily expressed concern about contacting both OMSS and the International Center simultaneously; what if both groups wanted to participate? We couldn't support it.
 - iii. Fran and Randall suggested that we start by talking to the International Center about setting up a Personal Librarian program, since they have a good number of students and good infrastructure that we could latch onto.
 - g. Mari requested that Fran edit the informational handout she passed out at today's meeting so that it can be used as an official proposal to give to the International Center when we start talking to them.
 - i. Mari would like to have that document ready for the FLITE Diversity Committee's next meeting, in December.
- IV. Next Meeting
- a. Mari will have Lyle schedule the FLITE Diversity Committee a meeting in December.