
Africana Studies Advisory Board Minutes

September 24, 2013

Members present: James Ochwa-Echel, Rosemary Onyango, Don Dawson, Vernon Woodley, Roberto Hodge, and Felix Kumah-Abiwu
Staff present: Connie Clarkson

James Ochwa-Echel called the meeting to order at 10:01 am

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Program Update

- a. James Ochwa-Echel stated we have eight majors and nine minors in the African Studies Program. Four majors graduate next semester.

- b. James met with Mary Herrington-Perry and will submit degree change paperwork shortly to CAH Curriculum Committee. The target date is in November 2013 to submit the degree change request from BS to BA to the Higher Education Board.

Roberto Hodge asked if the degree change will affect current students, James replied that it will depend on when the change occurs.

III. Integrative Learning

- a. James reported a trip to the NCBS Conference in Indianapolis in March, 2013. James, Rosemary Onyango, Felix Kumah-Abiwu attended, and Africana Studies sponsored three students at the conference.

- b. James reported that the Kwame Nkrumah Undergraduate Research Conference was held this past April. Nine students presented; some of the students were Africana Studies majors with the remainder being students from AFR classes. James also announced Redden Grant awards this year: \$1,500.00 for James and \$1,500.00 for Rosemary. James hopes to continue the Kwame Nkrumah conferences with the Redden Grant funds.

IV. Recruitment

James is looking for a graduate student to help him go to community colleges. James hopes Africana Studies faculty will continue to advocate program through courses that they teach. James has interviewed two graduate students from the College of Education; he is on the verge of hiring one for recruitment.

V. Scholarship

James reported the African American Studies Alumni Scholarship Fund was established in his third year at EIU. The original scholarship designation needed a ten thousand dollar balance prior to scholarship distribution. In James' meetings with EIU Alumni Foundation personnel, it was decided to change fund requirements for the annual scholarship fund. The scholarship is now required to raise five thousand dollars and then funds may be given annually; currently there is a little over four thousand dollars in the account. James hopes to award money next

spring or fall of next year. James also reported the fund is being changed from African American Studies Scholarship to Africana Studies Scholarship.

VI. Other Items

James stated we have an Assessment Committee that consists of Felix, Rosemary and Vernon Woodley. The next submission to the Assessment Office will come from the committee. James is thankful for the three committee volunteers.

Felix mentioned to Don Dawson that many students in past semesters appear interested in Africana Studies; however, other student advisors are steering them away from the program. A discussion was held regarding advising practices.

Don stated it can be arranged to present the Africana Studies major and minor to the Gateway students. The best times to present are at study halls in Blair Hall on Monday thru Thursday between 5-6:00 pm and 6-7:00 pm. Gateway usually has forty-five students in each of the two classrooms on the second floor of Blair Hall. If arranged, Don offered to introduce the speaker to the students.

Roberto stated he has noticed that the AFR major works really well with a second degree. He suggested advertising with a second degree.

Don stated the study halls are mainly all freshmen; it would be a good idea for Roberto to speak with them; there are also one hundred sixty-five freshmen in Gateway this year. Felix suggested scheduling Roberto or another AFR major and minor to speak with the students in Gateway study halls.

Don asked if we have checked with housing; residence halls are matching students with students that need help in a new program called Homework Heroes. Roberto will look into ways to reach more students in the residence halls.

James would like to invite Monica Zeigler to the next AFR Faculty meeting; James asked Connie Clarkson to invite Monica Zeigler to the meeting, and invite Brenda Major to the next AFR Advisory Board meeting.

James stated he will give information to Roberto as pertains to being an AFR Ambassador.

Adjournment

James motioned to adjourn, Vernon seconded, motion passed.



The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at 10:00 am in Blair Hall room 3108

Connie Clarkson, Recorder