
Africana Studies
Advisory Board Minutes
November 19, 2013

Members present: James Ochwa-Echel, Felix Kumah-Abiwu, Roberto Hodge, Vernon Woodley

Staff present: Connie Clarkson

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

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Review of previous meeting minutes

Approval postponed due to lack of a quorum.

III. Program Update

- a. Due to Felix Kumah-Abiwu's efforts we may have another major. James Ochwa-Echel has taken a student to the CAH Dean's office to declare her major; however she will need to go to her current advisor to change it. Roberto Hodge has heard from various students that are interested in declaring their major or minor.
- b. James has been before the CAA regarding the Africana Studies Program degree change however there was not a quorum to vote. The CAA will next meet this Thursday and then most likely James will present the degree change on December 5. If passed by the CAA, the degree change proposal will then go to the Illinois Higher Education Board; James will provide an update. Student Learning goals will also be discussed at the next CAA.

IV. Integrative Learning Update

- a. Kwame Nkrumah Undergraduate Research Conference Update

James stated the Kwame Nkrumah conference will commence. James asked that anyone with ideas for speakers, please submit them to Rosemary. Connie Clarkson reported that the conference will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014.

Roberto Hodge reported that Rosemary Onyango has already asked him to speak at the conference.

Vernon Woodley asked if there was a particular theme for the conference. James told Vernon to contact Rosemary. Raymond Muhammad from Champaign, Illinois may be someone to contact.

Felix suggested contacting our future speaker at the time of presentations if they know of anyone that may be interested in speaking at the following conference.

Felix also suggested that we look within the state to see if we can get someone from within.

V. Recruitment Update

James reported that he and Annie Shaw-Spellman traveled to Danville Area Community College for recruitment. Some names were garnered for recruitment and have followed up with emails.

There are initiatives planned for next semester for recruitment.

Annie presented the Africana Studies Program to the Gateway students and follow up emails have been sent as well.

Annie also had recruitment tables at the University Food Court for recruitment and was present at the last Open House.

VI. Scholarship

James reported that original paperwork to change the Africana Studies Program scholarship was misplaced and never filed.

James had a meeting with a group from the Philanthropy Office; they brought new paperwork and the funds will now be changed to an Annual Scholarship. If everything goes through, we may start awarding the scholarship as soon as next fall. Direct majors with a departmental GPA of 3.0 are eligible for the scholarship.

VII. Assessment

Felix stated that the committee members have made huge progress and finished a book review.

The committee met last week and discussed the rubrics for the research papers; they are trying to get a rubrics outline for Africana Studies. (This will also be part of the portfolio).

The committee will meet next week after Thanksgiving and forward results to James.

VIII. Other Items

James stated he is working to revise the AFR 1000, 2000 and 2200 for online offerings. This will go through the CAH and then the CAA before being offered online.

James stated he is working on the program analysis which the university is using to assess projects, programs and departments. This is a financial instrument that all departments must complete; cost benefit analysis.

Felix – Advisory Board membership. Felix suggested kindly sending an email that it would be nice for members to attend the meetings and provide ideas. James requested Connie to add the AFR Advisory Board By-Laws to the next committee agenda. James will draft an email to current board members asking if they want to remain on the Africana Studies Advisory Board.

Vernon also suggested presenting to the different clubs and groups on campus; i.e. Black Student Union, NAACP, etc. James will organize a meeting with Roberto and Annie to discuss visiting various student organizations for recruitment.

Roberto suggested running ads in the Daily Eastern News. Roberto will check to see how much the ads will cost, size, etc.

Adjournment

Vernon motioned to adjourn, Felix seconded, motion passed.



The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am

Connie Clarkson, Recorder

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at 10:00 am in Blair Hall room 3108