

Provost Council on African American Affairs Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 28, 2024

Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Attendees:

Lakshmi Reddi, Cecil Rose, Leanna Lucero, Charles Becknell, Jamie Bronstein, Blanca Araujo, Rebecca Palacios

Key Discussions and Updates:

1. Overview of Africana Minor Development

- Dr. Patrick Turner highlighted the origin of the Africana minor, which was initiated in response to student protests and the broader social justice movement.
- Both Dr. Turner and Dr. Jamie Bronstein provided details on the student demands that led to the creation of this initiative.

2. Role of the Provost Council on African American Affairs

- The council was established to address key student demands, including:
 - Development of the Africana Studies minor.
 - Relocation of Black Programs to improved office spaces.
 - Hiring of a Chief Diversity Officer.
 - Hiring additional support staff for Black Programs.

3. Africana Studies Curriculum Development

- Dr. Bronstein shared insights on the current Africana Studies courses, which she helped develop in collaboration with previous faculty in the College of Education.

4. Living and Learning Community Initiative

- Cecil Rose provided updates on the proposed Living and Learning Community, which aims to connect directly with Africana minor courses.
- Cecil, Charles Becknell, and Dr. Turner agreed to meet separately to discuss implementation details.

5. Africana Minor Framework and Resource Needs

- Dr. Charles Becknell reported progress on the Africana minor, noting that a framework is in place.
- Further development is needed, including additional courses, staffing, and resources to sustain the program's growth.

6. College of Education Support

- Dr. Leanna Lucero emphasized the College of Education's support for the Africana minor.
- She clarified that Dr. Becknell's teaching and program development responsibilities align with the expectations of other program directors.
- Charles has been paired with a faculty mentor to assist with his transition into the college and navigation of hiring processes.

7. Commitment to Financial Support

- Provost Lakshmi Reddi committed to providing marketing resources for the Africana minor.
- Budget limitations were noted regarding additional staffing, and further discussions will be required.
- Dr. Lucero concurred, stating that while departmental funds are limited, she will offer support wherever possible.

Next Steps:

- Cecil Rose, Dr. Becknell, and Dr. Turner to convene to finalize details for the Living and Learning Community initiative.

Meeting Adjourned.