

Advocacy Meeting Minutes: 04- 05- 23

The meeting started at 4:05, and ended 4:55 PM

Attendance: Benjamin Vidrine, Sumona Mumu, Pierre- Olivier Pire, Mary McMahon, John Olajire, Clement Okolo

- Introduce Kiwana McClung, our Chief Diversity Officer, and what she will be discussing, what the office of Campus Diversity has done for Graduate Students, specifically, the status of planning a Multicultural center at UL Lafayette.
 - The building of Harris Hall proposal
 - Workshop- what would you like to see in a multicultural center:
 - Building tour
 - Ideas of potential ways that the multicultural center could be used to benefit multiple people.
- Rose Honegger; serving tea from their country, international office
 - Highlighted every Friday, tea from that culture and how their culture created this tea
 - Tight space, great event
- Harris Hall (Dorm) has space that is underutilized and could become a safe space
- Looking at the space; hard to look at the space, hard to set up an appointment, Destiny Broussard with SGA partnering with Kiwana McClung; this is SGA's legacy, donating funds towards signage or something to help it come to fruition.
- Workshop (March in the Helma Forum, Student Union); Stakeholders from across campus to brainstorm what the Multicultural Center could be:
 - What should it address?
 - What should it have?
 - Who should it serve?
 - What should it be?
 - How should it work?
 - Posters on 2 walls with markers so people could write down what they value.
 - Centrally located
 - One-stop shop
 - Cajun card
 - Outlets
 - Comfortable furniture
 - Other features of other cultures
- Conversations with international students
 - Language things and context
 - Experience between when they arrived in the US and when they moved to their housing accommodation, up to a month with no housing; not much coordination to get students to the country. Relying on the kindness of strangers, social media, and family connections for accommodations
 - Harris Hall has been used in the past as transition space, overflow, public spaces for Multicultural Center, then dorms used as transition/ overflow space

- Fall semester is booked, it would be used as overflow housing space; it would need to be co-housing.
- Working on a proposal and see where it lands, temporary space until we can build a new multicultural center/ temporary housing situation
- Success and retention committee
 - Where are the gaps?
 - What is your experience?
 - Why did you take a year off?
 - Neurodiversity and accessibility issues.
 - Student identities are super complex
- What issues do we continue to face?
 - Graduate students are struggling to find non-gendered bathrooms in Griffin Hall
- Showed Graduate Students how to access the Insurance Panel on the GSO Website