
Africana Studies
Advisory Board Minutes
January 21, 2014

Members present: James Ochwa-Echel, Rosemary Onyango, Annie Shaw-Spellman, Vernon Woodley and Felix Kumah-Abiwu

Staff present: Connie Clarkson

James Ochwa-Echel called the meeting to order at 10:04 am

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Review of previous meeting minutes

- a. September 24, 2013
- b. November 19, 2013

Approval of above minutes postponed due to lack of a quorum.

III. Program Update

a. Majors & Minors

James reported that the Africana Studies Program has ten majors and five minors. Five majors are expected to graduate in May, 2014, bringing the program's total to five majors, total.

b. Recruitment – Malcolm X Community College

James reported he will be traveling with Annie Shaw-Spellman to Chicago to Malcolm X Community College on January 29, 2014. Last semester they traveled to Danville Area Community College for recruitment.

IV. Integrative Learning Update

a. Kwame Nkrumah Undergraduate Research Conference Update

Rosemary Onyango stated that she has been working with Felix Kumah-Abiwu for conference preparation; a potential keynote speaker has been located. Rosemary also announced to her students last semester that they should contact her if they were willing to present papers at the conference.

Vernon Woodley remembered a paper written by one of his students that would be good for the conference; he will contact the student to find out if they are interested in presenting the paper.

b. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

Friday, February 7, 2014

James reported that students have been invited to Springfield, IL; the deadline to join the field trip is January 24, 2014.

Connie Clarkson reported there have been three students that have signed up to attend the field trip.

James asked that Connie contact the presidents of the ASA and ASSA requesting the names and emails of their members. Connie will send an invitation to these members for the field trip.

V. Advisory Board Membership

James stated that the AFR Advisory Board needs to look at the current membership; he also brought copies of the By-Laws and suggested amendments.

James asked that members look at by-laws and he will be contacting faculty members interested in joining the AFR Advisory Board.

After discussion, it was determined that there would need to be six members present to amend/change the by-laws.

Vernon Woodley motioned to amend the language of the by-laws, and then vote for a new set of by-laws with clear language. If the motion to amend the by-laws is passed, then use amended copy of by-laws to proceed with issues regarding active membership and ex-officio membership. A group discussion was held. The motion was postponed due to lack of a quorum; all matters will be discussed at the next meeting.

Felix requested that find out who have been on the board for the past three years.

Vernon suggested sending an email requesting whether or not current members are interested in remaining on the AFR Advisory Board. James will also send out information for the next meeting where necessary changes will be discussed and to advise current members to attend.

Connie is to send out an email drafted by James to existing members with by-laws attached.

By-laws will be discussed at the next meeting with the view to amend the by-laws due to irregular attendance.

VI. Other Items

Felix mentioned that he represented the program at the Martin Luther King vigil and short ceremony in the MLK ballroom on Monday, January 20, 2014.

Adjournment

Felix motioned to adjourn, Vernon seconded, motion passed.



The meeting adjourned at 10:35 am

Connie Clarkson, Recorder

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10:00 am in Blair Hall room 3108