NIOT Meeting Summary
August 28, 2014
314 Bowen-Thompson Student Union (2 – 4pm)
BGSU Campus

Attendance:
Clint Crepe  Ray Plaza  Nancy Down  Dan Boyle
Jim Litwin  Paul Valdez  Cynthia Roberts  Tobias Spears
Vicky Kulicke  Monica Moll  Gary Saunders  Mary Beth Zachary
Susana Peña  Ana Brown  LaTasha Sullivan  Arpan Yagnik
Heather Sayler  Taneisha Scott  Yolanda Flores  Leslie Potts

Meeting called to order

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. NIOT Structure
Overview provided of the NIOT structure. The goal is to show the shared relationship between BGSU and BG. Each of the working groups has a BGSU lead and a BG lead.

a. Chairs – Ray Plaza, BGSU Co-Chair, Gary Saunders, BG Co-Chair
b. Steering Committee – consists of the Chairs and the heads of the working groups.
c. Working Groups – Outreach Initiatives (Leslie Potts, Vicky Kulicke, Heather Sayler), Education and Programming (Tobias Spears, Rev. Lynn Kerr), Marketing and Public Relations (open)

III. Recap of Summer
a. NIOT Summer gathering in Billings, Montana
i. Representatives from BG and BGSU, one of the largest contingents
ii. All involved in presenting/facilitating programs – BGSU students did a great job
iii. Adriana Darris was the closing speaker
iv. Opportunity to engage with folks from around the country – made close connections with the individuals from Oak Creek
v. Brought back materials such as videos, publications, etc.

b. PACODI Retreat
i. Held in late July and an opportunity to look back at the past year as well as to look ahead
ii. Four goals for NIOT
   1. Engagement with K-12 schools (public/private)
   2. Increased community presence/engagement
   3. Continued growth on campus
4. Efforts to create foundation for sustainability of effort – infrastructure, funding sources, etc.
5. Ways to #LiveNIOTBG
6. Possibility of hosting a regional gathering of NIOT organizations in the surrounding region

c. Ad Hoc Committee - Wooster Street Signs
   i. On Thursday, August 21st, President Mazey and Mayor Edwards walked along Wooster Street and went door to door to meet with residents. Shared letter with students (letter was emailed to all BGSU students).
   ii. Overall, fewer signs along Wooster. Any signs that did go up were reported and quickly removed.
   iii. Counter protest was held on Friday in front of Hanna Hall. Consisted on welcoming and positive signs. Overall positive response and feedback.
   iv. Students that participated in the counter protest debriefed afterwards. Desire to expand effort with more positive signs.
   v. Concern raised for the need to monitor other main roads not just Wooster St.
   vi. Ad Hoc group will plan on meeting and look at other ways to follow-up on effort
   vii. Thanks to Dan Boyle and others that were part of this effort

d. Fall Opening Efforts
   i. Busy fall opening of NIOT efforts including Late Night event at Field House, Residence Life Town Hall meetings, NIOT banners for each hall, NIOT buttons for move-in staff

e. Book Club
   i. In June, NIOT endorsed a proposal by Jim Litwin for a reading group based on the diversity in America series. The first organizational meeting is planned for Tuesday, September 9th at 5:30 pm in the Carter House.

IV. Chair Updates
   a. BGSU Co-Chair: Ray - Updating list-serv, new NIOT Weekly Digest; thank you to Parking Services for providing parking passes to community guests for the on-campus meetings
   b. BG Co-Chair: Gary – excited about opportunity. Desire for pro-active community building, religious dialogue

V. Working Group Updates
   a. Outreach Initiatives
      i. BGSU Leads - Leslie and Vicky; BG Lead – Heather
      ii. Leslie shared the desire for positive focus – idea of Warm Welcome Down Wooster next year – opportunity to engage students in a positive message
      iii. Heather shared that she reported to City Council, working ion ways that NIOT can be a part of the Black Swamp Festival
      iv. Vicky shared that the NIOT video on BG is progressing and she had the chance to see an exclusive clip
   b. Education and Programming
      i. BGSU Lead – Tobias; BG Lead – Rev. Lynn Kerr
ii. Solidarity march held on Sunday, August 17th. Overall 200 gathering and marched from campus to Main Street and back (organized by students with the Black Student Union)

iii. New Dream program for LGBT students – pairing new students with upper-class students and faculty/staff (effort organized and developed by Luke Grabski)

iv. New effort called “Out Falcons” to be unveiled in Fall semester – tie in with NIOT

v. iStand Advocacy training for RA staff

vi. During Student Leader retreat – next steps with iStand and focused on who do they advocate for?
   • each organization charged to create a diversity statement

vii. Look at ways to mirror these efforts in the community
   1. Example – SafeZone presentation at the First Presbyterian Church in August

   c. Marketing and Public Relations
      i. Currently both roles vacant – looking for volunteers
      ii. Redesigned NIOT poster
      iii. Recommendations that we include pictures of events for future poster designs (goal for a series of posters)

VI. New Business

a. Volunteer Sign-up for Campus Fest (September 4th)
   i. Campus Fest will happen on September 4th
   ii. Shift from 11 – 3, with set-up at 10am

b. Engagement Opportunities
   i. Fundraising opportunities
      1. Corporate sponsor for the NIOT shirts
      2. Establishment of foundation accounts
   ii. Homecoming Parade
   iii. Holiday Parade

VII. Discussion: What would you like to see in terms of NIOT for this upcoming year?
The group was engaged in a discussion of new ideas and efforts. The following is a summary:

a. Better quality photos and more press coverage
   i. Contacts with the Sentinel-Tribune

b. K-12 Engagement
   i. Follow-up with Jeff Devers and the Superintendent
   ii. Work with existing efforts
   iii. Maybe present to School Board, teachers, PTSAs
   iv. Work with School of Education to help student teachers in their training

c. Branding of NIOT
   i. Logo available on website
   ii. Ways for others to brand programs with NIOT – encouraging programs
   iii. Reminder that everything is getting archived

d. Service Learning opportunities
   i. MLK Day of Service
ii. Use volunteer opportunities to get students to step into NIOT principles
e. Unity concert/unity event
   i. Multicultural event in the community
f. GSS events on diversity in Fall and Spring
g. Interfaith Dialogue event
h. #LiveNIOTBG
i. Dr. Lisa Hanasono’s Video project
j. Development of a year-long NIOT Calendar

VIII. Good of the Order
   a. Heather – Land Use Master Plan to be presented; when new BG website developed, possibility for listing NIOT events
   b. Leslie – Ethnic Studies is interested in having individuals from NIOT come and make presentations as well as show videos
   c. Paul – Community Partnerships fair on September 9th
   d. Dan – residence life programming efforts – new model, inclusivity focus
   e. Vicky – Title IX training
   f. Monica – expansion of the Homecoming Parade route to include more of downtown and create more connections between the community and the university
   g. LaTasha – Counseling Center and OMA hosting a program on September 10th “Where Do U Stand” in the Student Union
   h. Taneisha – SAAFE Center fundraiser at McDonald’s on September 9th. Proceeds to go to the victims’ fund.
   i. Gary – First Presbyterian Church received a grant to expand outreach to LGBT students on campus. Will be sponsoring the food for Big Gay Welcome.
   j. Ray – Digest to be sent out on Fridays

IX. Next meeting:
   a. September 18th from 2 – 4pm at the BG City Council Chambers (City Administrative Building)