NIOT Meeting Summary
October 16, 2014
308 Bowen-Thompson Student Union (BGSU)

Attendance:
Winnie Rex    Breanna Jones    Taneisha Scott    Mary Beth Zachary
Marge Miller  Jackie Luedtke  Yolanda Flores  Krishna Han-Frey
Tobias Spears Kristin Brewer  Vicky Kulicke  Gary Saunders
Ray Plaza    Patty Helyer    Heather Sayler  Susana Peña
Monica Moll  Roger Grant

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Chair Updates
a. BGSU Co-Chair: (Ray)
i. A lot of stuff has happened since the last meeting – NIOT statement on the
Campus preachers, Freedom of Speech panel, etc.
ii. Many different touch points - presentations to classes and student groups
about NIOT
iii. Behind the scenes efforts

b. BG Co-Chair: (Gary)
i. Building networks – gaining more traction
ii. Spoke at latter part of Eastside Association meeting (Arpan handled the first
part)

III. Working Group Updates
a. Outreach Initiatives (Leslie, Vicky, Heather)
i. Heather:
   1. Coordinating a meeting with Superintendent Ann McVey for late
      October with Gary, Ray and Vicky.
   2. HRC’s “White Like Me” discussion later tonight
   3. Looking at connections with other religious denominations
      a. First United Methodist
   4. Connections with other services – Developmental Disabilities

ii. Vicky/Leslie:
   1. Looking at a student campus wide meeting (initially one was planned
      but was postponed)
   2. More outreach of Classified Staff, Administrative Staff and Faculty
   3. Arpan Yagnik represented NIOT at the first part of the Eastside
      Association meeting
4. University submitted a nomination for NIOT and Athletics as part of an NCAA Diversity Award

b. *Education and Programming* (Tobias/Lynn/Gary)
   1. Currently Coming Out Week
      a. Panel held earlier in the week on Religion and Sexuality was well-attended
   2. Black Faculty Meet & Greet with Black Student Union later tonight
   3. Looking at developing an iStand version for staff
   4. iStand open to all community members
   5. Increasing LGBT visibility – new Poster campaign “Out Falcons”
   6. LGBT Faculty & Staff Social on Friday, October 17th at the Carter House

   1. List-serv sign-ups
   2. Weekly Digest

IV. **Old Business**
   a. NIOT Statement to Campus Preachers
      i. Feedback positive to statement and reaction – thanks to everyone for their quick responses
      ii. Discussion about my the campus preachers garnered more attention: Chris Mitchell video, increased student interest – sensitivity, more preachers
      iii. Desire for more pro-activity in the future to better prepare students
      iv. Focus not on free speech but on importance of diversity and inclusive environments

b. Freedom of Speech Panel
   i. Positive feedback about the panel and good attendance
   ii. Discussion about range of related issues from ensuring that we focus on broader issues not just freedom of speech in the future

c. Homecoming Parade
   i. Went well amid the weather challenges
   ii. Two representatives from the community; two from the university
   iii. Positive coverage

d. Diversity Book Club
   i. Book Club over 14 participants
   ii. Meeting on the second Tuesday of the Month
   iii. Finishing up the first book

V. **New Business**
   a. Volunteer Sign-up for Holiday Parade (Sat., Nov. 22) – joint effort with the Human Relations Commission (HRC)
      i. Information to be shared via email for sign-up
b. NIOT Week sponsored by The Collective
   i. Student group looking at coordinating their second annual NIOT week
   ii. To take place during week of Nov. 17th
   iii. Desire for a community type event like last year

   c. Fundraising
   i. NIOT will need to explore fundraising opportunities to help fund buttons, banners, etc. We have depended on the generosity of others but we can’t sustain that.
   ii. Efforts ongoing for the development of a Foundation account to allow us to collect funds
   iii. Need to look at some type of signature fundraising event/effort

VI. Discussion: Current Landscape – national/regional/state/local?
   Question raised about what NIOT could do to better engage the community on news impacting the country.
   - Most news has been depressing – need to look at positive efforts
   - How can we showcase positive efforts – ex. Recent Nobel Peace Prize winner (Malala)
   - Need to be careful that if we are going to talk about a specific issue, then we need to have experts prepared to address that issue
   - If more open discussion, then not as restrictive
   - Opportunity to start a dialogue on broad frame – maybe look at partnerships with other groups in the community

VII. Good of the Order
   - Roger – Expressed the concern about the funding and need for the group to be creative
   - Krishna – Chinese Acrobats on December 6th – BG Middle School Performing Arts
   - Krishna – Upcoming Navajo program and then Native American Heritage month
   - Jackie - Disability Services Open House on October 30th at 38 College Park
   - Chief Moll – potential for a joint police BBQ with students to help dispel myths
   - Susana – Silent Witness project on Monday, October 27th, NIOT endorsed this effort.
   - Susana – Speaker on November 5th – Matika Wilbur, Native American Photographer
   - Heather – HRC recognizing La Conexion de Wood County at the November 3rd City Council Meeting
   - Heather – Opportunity for NIOT to be more involved with Project Connect in the future – held their recent event on October 1th
   - Heather – Land Use Planning meeting on October 20th
   - Winnie – Identity Project efforts both on campus and in the community
   - Ray – Thanks to everyone for their input

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2014  City Council Chambers, 304 N. Church Street

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