

Academic Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Agenda
March 3, 2020 1 PM Shawnee Room

- I. Approval of minutes from February 11 meeting (attachment p. 2–4)
- II. Reports from Student Organization Meetings
- III. Old Business
 - a. Campus Climate Survey Update
- IV. Discussion Items
 - a. Announcing WUmester 2021 (attachment p. 5–6)
 - b. Reports from Best Practice Subcommittees (Grant and O’Neill and Petersen and Erby)
 - c. Programming Ideas for 2020 Presidential Election

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February 11, 2020 1 PM Shawnee Room

Attendees: Erby, Brown, Dempsey- Swopes, DeSota, Ellis, Etzel, Gibbons, Grant, Hart, Juma, Kendall-Morwick, McClendon, Miller, Petersen, Thimesch, Wasserstein, Williams, Wynn

- I. Approved minutes from the December 10th meeting
- II. Reports from Student Organization Meetings & Sign Ups for Attending Meetings in Spring
 - A. Semester meeting and event sign-up sheet passed around.
- III. Old Business
 - A. WUmester 2020 updates
 - i. Posters and fliers distributed by Erby.
 - B. Feb 21 at 1:00 there is a panel discussion on social media and citizenship with faculty from different disciplines at the Rita Blitt.
 - C. April 23 at 3:30 pm there is a panel on environmental stewardship and citizenship also at Rita Blitt.
 - D. May 7th Carol Anderson, author of *White Rage* and *One Person, No Vote* from Emory University is coming to WU.
 - E. Flonzie Brown Wright event on 2/7 was well attended and received good press. During her visit, Ms. Brown Wright taped an episode of KTWU's *I've Got Issues*, along with Wynn. It will air 2/20/20 and stream afterward.
 - F. Lanker exhibit opening 2/14/2020. There are gallery guides that may be useful for the classes.
- IV. Campus Climate Survey Update
 - A. Current response rate after one week is 17 percent students and 34 percent for faculty and staff.
 - B. Dempsey-Swopes announced that students are tabling to encourage students to take the climate survey. Students under 18 are not included in the survey.
 - C. When the results are in, there will be focus groups and town hall meetings and there will be opportunities for committee members to get involved in the analysis.
- V. Minor Program Update
 - A. Currently going through the CAS approval system. Social science has approved and it's on the way to the CSCCC in February. Once approved, it will be sent to Academic Affairs, Faculty Senate, and WUBoR.

- B. Please speak to your department and school regarding the minor moving forward and encourage support for it.
- VI. New Business
- A. Deans' and President's Lists are not currently using students' preferred names. Committee unanimously approved a resolution that that they should going forward.
- VII. WUmester 2021
- A. Kendall-Morwick drafted a description for the topic *sustainability*.
 - i. Committee members brainstormed programming ideas.
 - ii. Topic and topic description unanimously.
 - iii. Erby will take to Dr. Mazachek to ask for executive staff approval.
- VIII. Announcements
- A. Call for papers for Right to Vote Conference at Washburn- deadline extended to February 17th
 - i. Mostly undergraduate work for people who are working on papers over political perspectives and involvement in voting. Sarah Deer, who writes about native women and suffrage, will be the keynote speaker at 4 pm March 27th.
 - B. Call for papers for the 7th Annual Gender & Sexuality in Kansas Conference
 - C. Self-nominate or nominate someone from the committee for one of the CTEL awards
 - D. Hostile Terrain: August 4 through November 3, 2020 (Williams)
 - i. The Mulvane will be one of 100 locations globally that is hosting this exhibit.
 - ii. Composed of toe-tags, one for each of 4,000 people who have been found crossing the border. The exhibit includes a 20 foot wide map with locations marked with the tag which includes where they were found, personal information, and QR codes with video of the person's relative speaking about them and why they were crossing.
 - iii. Need to mobilize the creation of the exhibit. There are many WUmester events related to this over the course of the semester where people can help make tags; may need to continue into the summer.
 1. February 18th Strangers In Town
 2. Next stand-alone event is is February 28 from 1-3 in Henderson.
 3. March 5th Luis Estrada, Mexican Immigrant and Topeka Community Organizer wil be visiting campus

- iv. While open, there will be speakers on campus, including anthropologists and indigenous leaders speaking about about immigration and climate change, movies, poetry and digital story telling workshops.
- v. Goals include political intention and to create a witnessing of those who passed.

IX. Adjourned 12:55

WUmester 2021 Topic Proposal

Sustainability

The use of the term “sustainability” to describe the harmonious coexistence of humans and the rest of Earth’s biosphere dates back to at least the 1980s, when the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development called for sustainable development that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This understanding of sustainability emphasizes that what the future holds depends on our actions—or inaction—in the present. Recent events ranging from devastating wildfires in Australia, California, and the Amazon rainforest to powerful speeches by teen climate activists Autumn Peltier and Greta Thunberg have made that future feel more immanent, spurring worldwide interest in sustainability. Yet as concern for our global environment becomes more mainstream, sustainability risks becoming a mere buzzword. By focusing on this concept, WUmester 2021 seeks to address the need for nuanced and inclusive conversations about sustainability that can productively shape our planet’s future.

Growing evidence of Earth’s changing climate and its consequences for humans, animals, and the natural world has led many scientists to dub our current era of unprecedented human impact on the planet the Anthropocene. Yet the causes and effects of climate change are unevenly distributed across human populations. While a handful of wealthy nations disproportionately produce the emissions that propel climate change, nations with high poverty rates—and marginalized communities within wealthy nations—bear the brunt of its effects. Thus, efforts to promote sustainability must incorporate a broad range of viewpoints and consider how unsustainable practices impact diverse cultures, communities, and ecosystems.

WUmester 2021 will examine the concept of sustainability from the perspectives of academic disciplines across campus and through a variety of co-curricular programming. It will consider sustainable and unsustainable lifeways across cultures and throughout history in order to expand and complicate our ideas of what sustainability means and why it is vitally important in the 21st century. Ultimately, it will support Washburn’s goal of promoting productive and responsible citizenship by encouraging members of our community to cultivate more sustainable ways of living together.

Possible subtopics include:

- Environmental racism and environmental justice
- Indigenous lifeways and sustainability
- Possibilities and limits of sustainability as a conceptual framework
- Mass extinction and loss of biodiversity
- Sustainable agriculture and farming
- Locavorism, veganism, and other alternative foodways
- Sustainable business practices
- History of environmentalism

- The Anthropocene and anthropocentrism
- Environmental communication and scientific literacy
- Urban ecology
- Multispecies ethnography and more-than-human worlds
- Wildlife management and conservation
- Environmental activism and political engagement
- Sustainable human/animal relationships
- Representations of “nature” and nonhuman animals in literature, film, and other media
- Antihumanism, posthumanism, and transhumanism
- Environmental ethics
- Ecofeminist theory and practice
- Production, consumption, and waste
- Greenwashing and eco-consumerism
- Green New Deal and the economics of sustainability
- Addressing climate change in the Midwest