

Values Commitment Steering Team Meeting Minutes  
02/27/2014

Committee members in attendance were Bob Sitler, Michael Branton, Leila Roach, Lynn Schoenberg, and Rina Tovar.

Leila has agreed to edit VCST meeting minutes to be posted on Stetson's website.

Values Day

Lua Hancock gave input on some choices of books for the Common Read for Values Day: *The Kite Runner*, or *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, both authored by Khaled Hosseini and *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation* by Eboo Patel. By phone Lua and the team discussed the following:

- The focus is on ecumenical contemplative practices
- How likely will it be to get the author on campus
- The author should be a good speaker as well as writer
- Discussed the need for online materials and other resources
- Other books could be considered except for time constraints: a decision should be made in two weeks.
- A faculty group should be involved in selecting the book to be used
- Faculty should also be involved in follow-up discussions
- Concern about budget issues was expressed. As the VCST has no budget, it is not within the area of VCST's responsibility.
- Values Day can be a launching pad for Lindsey Graves's interfaith group

Bob Sitler recommended that given the short timeline and their link to the VCST through Joshua Rust, the social justice faculty group should be contacted for their support and involvement. Lua agreed to contact them. It was suggested that next year it could be a different faculty group. Michael Branton stated that the book should tie into Values Day, that it not compete but reinforce what we are doing and should target incoming students.

Bob has spoken with Bill Noblitt in Marketing regarding potential stories for the values focus in the next issue of the Stetson magazine. Some of his suggestions included:

- Highlight new people who are working in the environmental area
- Give Doug Lee his due for establishing the Values Council
- Speak with Karen Ryan re: the green initiative

The idea of presenting philanthropy to students was discussed. Rina will talk to Bill to see if student philanthropy can be incorporated into the article.

Leila presented the outcome of The Values Day planning meeting she had with Bob, Savannah-Jane and Yolani. Some of their ideas included the following:

- Savannah-Jane will organize students for brainstorming re: the direction of Values Day, giving students more ownership of the event. If students take the initiative, they become more interested, and more will show up for workshops
- Engage the faculty through the students
- Send out RFP that was sent last year
- Another brainstorming session is scheduled for April 4.
- Include Gary Oliphant, as his passion is social responsibility, justice, and entrepreneurship

- Yolani felt that a community meal brings in more students. Bob will talk to Paul regarding Mexican food. There could be Mexican music, and outside and inside associations could attend
- Opportunity Fair
- Hunger banquet
- Suggested that keynote speaker speak on Monday night to bring in more students
- In the next day's session, the keynote speaker should be later in the day

The current policy on cultural credit was discussed. It was determined that both service plus reflection count for one credit, but service only gets no credit.

The committee supports the tobacco-free celebration as a Values Day focus. After Bob has a conversation with Bob Huth, he will have something to announce.

Intellectual Development:

There was discussion about the perception of Campus Life not involving faculty in curricular vetting for one of the past programs. It was recommended that there should be a joint proposal for these programs. Rina will speak with both Chris Kandus and Beth Paul about this.

The date of the next VCST meeting will be announced at a later time.

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