

Values Commitment Steering Team - Minutes

9/25/14

Recording Secretary: Joshua Rust

Team members in attendance are Bob Sitler, Joshua Rust, Michael Branton, Savannah-Jane Griffin, Leila Roach, and Colleen Price

Open query about how the VCST might proceed this year

Savannah: attended a conference which found that individuals involved in faith-based organizations tend to be more engaged. Stetson was recognized for the work we've done. But we might ask whether we should continue to pursue that route. Should we, for example, have an interfaith minor?

Michael: how do these programs not exclude secular students?

Savannah: in addition to having secular groups, the difference between secular and non-secular students is largely a matter of the latter's ability to mobilize.

Holiday Schedule

The President originally sought to not have a Good Friday holiday, given the many other religious holidays from other traditions that are not observed in this way.

Bob: But given that that doesn't appear to be a possibility how can we accommodate other religious holidays? Or should we push to eliminate the Good Friday holiday and instead have programming? (As suggested by Michael Frank)

Bob: let's invite Michael Frank and Lindsey Graves to the next VCST meeting.

Environmental Recommendations

They have been posted. The few comments posted have been largely encouraging.

Bob: perhaps we still have more work to do on trees. The treed area by Garfield is still slated to be a parking.

Employee Wellness Initiative

Leila and Colleen: still looking to meet with Sheila Daniels.

Paper scandal

Michael: met with Bob Huth and Bill Penny to gather facts. What was the process that resulted in the "scandal"? The original proposal appeared to be targeted at not wasting paper. There are a few bad actors who are printing thousands of pages. The idea is to eliminate the behavior of these students. The scandal resulted from the library's prematurely placing a sign near the printer, which sparked the student response.

Colleen: are we sure these students “bad actors”. For example, could this printing be motivated by a learning disability?

Bob: should we look at paper source as well? Right now the paper is Brazilian Eucalyptus, virgin pulp. It is sustainable (though Eucalyptus is invasive) and they don't have to bleach it. However, there might be other options.

Values Fellows

Gary Oliphant would like to talk with the VCST. He's interested in social entrepreneurship and curious about the Values Fellows program.

Josh: I'll talk to Rina about this.

Updates to past recommendations

These will be sent around for comments.

The Rock

Bob: should we have some representation at the commemoration? Given that we were not involved we should probably be reluctant to “bless” projects of this kind.