

Skyline College
Stewardship for Equity, Equal Employment and Diversity (SEED)
Advisory Committee
March 24, 2008

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Lori Adrian, Rosie Bell, Amory Cariadus, John Chavez, Barbara Daley, Vicki Morrow and Phyllis Taylor. Guest: Jack Weinstein. Recorder: Linda Ghio

Absent: Melissa Komadina, Nancy Lam and Richard Soyombo

Presentation by Jack Weinstein on Facing History and Ourselves

Facing History and Ourselves is an educational non-profit organization that made its name by a case study of holocaust and human behavior and membership in community. It provides professional development and clients take it for their own purposes. There is no template. It looks not at the holocaust but at the fragility of democracy. It also talks about race in America – the history of race science in the progressive area on up to today, and the eugenics movement. Teacher trainings in the form of week-long seminars are conducted each summer. Online seminars are also offered. There is a mix of adult learners in the workshops. The other arm of their work is to organize community events and from those, programming and initiatives are developed. Lori asked if there was something that could address the Asian and Latino population at Skyline. He suggested film series, talks, bringing someone in that could talk about the cultural revolution in China and suggested two books: Ji-Li Jiang's book *Red Scarf Girl* and Gus Lee's *Tiger's Tail*. Jack said their forte is providing ideas that teachers would then incorporate into their curriculum. It may be making a presentation to the entire English department to engage them in doing a campus read. Rosie said that Skyline did programming last year around James McBride's *The Color of Water*. Jack said Facing History and Ourselves has a vertical slice philosophy – a college does not have to target everybody but instead could focus on a slice that cuts through one section of the campus and that cohort grows over time so there is generational change.

Facing History and Ourselves is newly connected with other nonprofits that would be interested in a coordinated effort. The groups that have formed a partnership are:

- Islamic Networks Group (ING.org), located in the South Bay. It is specific to Islam and has “myth busters” about Islam.
- Silicon Valley Conference for Community and Justice does great programs around issues of prejudice for adults and young people. The contact is Bart Charlow at (408) 286-9663.
- Anti Defamation League (ADL) has a number of programs. It is now a civil rights group and has been the most proactive in terms of developing materials around civil rights. They are aligned with what is legitimate criticism of Israel and what goes over the line to be anti-Semitism.

- Not in Our Town, which produces the “Not in Our Town” films. The first film was about Billings, Montana in the early 1990s and it was their record of response to a series of hate crimes in their town. Napa College did a program around “Not in Our Town” a few years ago and they had a study guide, readings, and publicity. Facing History did teacher trainings around that series. This may be better for Skyline than Facing History and there are colleges that have done it. Patrice O’Neal is with the working group of Not in Our Town, which is based in Oakland, and he suggested inviting her to a SEED meeting to see what her initiatives would look like.
- Facing History and Ourselves, which is an international group. There is a staff of 150 internationally, and 6 employees locally. Facing History’s dream is to engage with an entire school district to provide programming, public events, teacher training, show films provided by the ADL, and take teachers on Sojourn to the Past. He believes there would be community foundations interested in supporting the schools and grants could be written. Facing History will also be showing the film on the founding of the Peace Corps, American Idealist: The Story of Sargent Shriver, in Fremont on April 2.

Vicki explained the development of Skyline’s SEED Committee, which morphed out of an affirmative action committee. Each year, SEED tries to put together an initiative action and create events around it. The SMCCCD made a commitment 10 years ago to send groups to the Museum of Tolerance so there is a backdrop here of interest. One proposition, Jack said would be for Skyline to look for venues to do these community events, which are hosted pro bono by different schools, and in exchange Facing History and Ourselves would take 5-8 people to go through the training pro bono. Vicki would like to have him contact us for that. Jack said the end result would be to implement an initiative from that, either develop a new course, or something that provides an ongoing connection between Skyline and Facing History and Ourselves.

Vicki asked what the meeting of the five groups over a three-year project would cost, and he guessed around \$250,000. He said they are charged with raising \$1.5 million over the course of the year for their chapter, although it is subsidized by the national office. They are connected to foundations, have a staff of grant writers, and a fundraising group. There are some fundraising ideas that could come from these five groups. Most of the work will be to find where in the funding community is the group that would be interested in helping with this.

Jack distributed a handout on Facing History and Ourselves’ Bay Area summer seminars. Lori asked if there were course outlines for the seminars and he said there are. Vicki asked if most of the seminar attendees are teachers and he said it also includes administration within the department level and principals.

Review and approval of February minutes

The minutes of February 25 were approved as written.

Review of SEEED events calendar

Phyllis distributed the most current SEEED calendar of events. She pointed out that it is missing Expanding Your Horizons, which went very well. Vicki said there were 825 girls in attendance. The Black Student Union had a prolific celebration of African American history month with moderate to poor attendance, although the performances were incredible. Phyllis said she was not able to promote the event series as she had done the year before when she was not coordinating SEEED. She said that the coordinator cannot successfully, organize, plan, and facilitate the event and then publicize it too. The other thing she did was create a report for people to look at and discuss at the April SEEED meeting. The WOW conference had its largest attendance ever at 400. This event is successful because there is consistent scheduling, an enormous structural framework, which includes a lot of publicity and an internal framework of community and student volunteers. She asked the SEEED Committee to send her any additional information on spring events and she will add it to the calendar.

Plan for Diversity Coordinator next year and SEEED Year End Report

Vicki wants people to read Phyllis' Year End Report and study the prospectus on diversity initiative coordination. The prospectus needs updating and that would intersect with Phyllis' report. The committee needs to consider what it wants this person to do. Phyllis said the job Rosie did was different from the job she did and perhaps SEEED is looking for someone who can do a little of both. Together, Phyllis said, she and Rosie have created a great framework, reporting techniques, and calendaring which will support the next person. Lori said to separate the clerical part of the job out and see if that is doable for one person. Rosie proposed having co-coordinators. Vicki said there is an advantage to having a faculty person coordinate as it is harder for a classified person to get release time, but Vicki is open to having a classified person do it. Rosie said City College San Francisco has a coordinator who is a member of their staff and that is all she does, but Vicki said they have 100,000 students. Phyllis said there may be some faculty who might be interested in SEEED, as is evidenced with the numbers showing up for the Three T - Teachers Training Teachers workshops. Lori said in the First Year Experience findings, students had difficulties connecting what is happening outside of the classroom to what is happening inside and she said SEEED needs to try to connect activities with curriculum. Vicki said there was limited success with the book idea, and Rosie said SEEED needs to encourage the English instructors to get on board. Vicki wants SEEED to focus on what it wants for the position next year, what the focus will be and what kinds of events could be held at the April meeting.

Room reservation process: identifying the key issues and mapping a plan of action

This topic is not SEEED specific. Vicki would like to hold a separate meeting with Phyllis, Rosie and Barbara to discuss the topic, and said that she would convene that.

One Book, One Community

Barbara said her response on the One Book, One Community has been underwhelming. The book that was chosen was Dave Eggers' book, *What is the What*. The library would like a panel discussion and someone to adopt the book and films. They made a presentation to the Language Arts division, but unfortunately the Social Science/Creative

Arts presentation was canceled. She is not sure they will be able to get something going. Phyllis said the Language Arts groups use a minimum of 4-5 textbooks and the feedback is that it is too lengthy for the students for it to be one of their reading books. Barbara said it is very readable, but Phyllis said it goes back to the basic skills issue for students because it is close to 500 pages. Barbara said there is still the idea of showing films about the Lost Boys and the library may still want to do an informal reading group. but she feels it may need to be a PIF grant. She is not sure if SEEED is interested in promoting films or discussions on Darfur or if the group would rather look at assimilation here in the U.S. Barbara said it is mentioned in the book, but the major part takes place in Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

District EEOAC

The district committee is being reconvened with the usual array of appointees, administrators, faculty and staff. It was mentioned at the SEEED meeting because it would be great to have cross-representation from SEEED and EEOAC. Vicki will research the idea further.

New Business

Rosie was looking at the SEEED Committee meeting absentee list and the committee does not have the representation that it would like without everyone present. Vicki will contact the absentees and see if they still wish to serve.

Next meeting: April 21, 2008 in Room 1319