

Multicultural Task Force
Minutes of Meeting: November 18, 2011

Meeting called to order at 8:25 am.

Attendees: Russell Swanson, Mireille Lauture, Sarah Lublink, Barbi Cox, Dana Roes Kern, Eileen DeLuca, Tim Bishop, Cathy Wilkins, Kye Park, Lauren Mueller

October 28th Meeting Minutes were approved.

Discussion items:

1. Russell led a discussion on the Alternative Spiritualities forum that took place on November 9, 2011. Four religious scholars presented: Chip Larkin, Charles Alfarone, Rob Avola, Mark Ehman. It was reported that over 60 students, faculty and staff came to view the presentation. Sarah noted that the students seemed to really enjoy the event. She noticed they were asking many questions of the scholars. Tim noted that the responses from the scholars were more “focused” than at previous events and this seemed to encourage more participation. Students also seemed to stay longer and “mingle” with scholars after the presentations and Q&A. It was noted that extra credit assignments may have encouraged increased participation. Eileen shared the results from the comment cards. Thirty-five attendees responded. The overall response was positive with the majority of respondents “agreeing” or “strongly agreeing” (as rated on a Likert scale measure) that...
 - *Attending this event increased my knowledge and understanding of religious diversity.*
 - *Attending this event changes some of my views on alternative spiritualities.*
 - *The topics were interesting and informative.*

The students also gave positive feedback through the open-ended responses. Suggestions for improvement included a request for inviting people from other/additional religions. There were other suggestions related to the venue, such as providing for more comfortable chairs, temperature, etc. (See attached survey results). Based on the discussion and the feedback from the comment cards, the MCTF group agreed that they would host a similar event next fall, noting the students’ suggestions. In addition, as a response to the feedback, the group will move forward with hosting the religious leaders for the **March 28, 2012 Religious Diversity Forum**. The group will respond to student feedback by finding a diverse group of religious leaders to include previously unrepresented religions. Russell asked the MCTF group to make suggestions for invited speakers. The group will try to ensure gender diversity by including female religious leaders.

2. Barbi discussed progress on shadowing the FGCU group through their year-long preparation for hosting the **Vagina Monologues** and related events. She noted that if we were to host the event in 2013 it would need to be planned

for February or early March to tie into V-Day events that tend to run beginning February 1 each year (check out <http://www.vday.org/home>). She noted that on **February 2, 2012, FGCU will host a screening of the film “Until the Violence Stops”** (check out <http://www.vday.org/ten-years-vday/until-the-violence-stops>). Barbi will distribute audition flyers and event notifications around campus. Other events being scheduled include workshops on healthy sexuality and a “paint your orgasm” event tentatively scheduled for Feb. 15. Barbi reminded the group that the proceeds from the event must go to a women’s charity and she suggested Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships (check out <http://www.humantraffickingawareness.org/>). She would like to encourage any men in the Humanities department to participate in the V-Men conference at FGCU so that they may lead a parallel event at ESC in 2013 (check out v-men stories at <http://www.vday.org/meet-vday/v-men>).
ACTION ITEM: Barbi will provide dates of V-day events as they are set.

3. Russell shared that he received an email from Wendy Chase that she is working with Jane Bigelow to bring the film “Of Gods and Men” to ESC, through the Rush Library Film Series. Inspired by a true story, the film tells the story about a group of monks in the Algerian Mountains who come under the threat of fundamentalist terrorists. Check-out: <http://www.sonyclassics.com/ofgodsandmen/> Wendy will lead the film discussion. The event is tentatively scheduled for April, 2012.
4. Lauren Mueller discussed the progress on hosting a series of **Human Trafficking Awareness events between January 18-23, 2012.**
 - a. **Teresa Flores**, domestic victim tentatively scheduled for **January 19, 6-8.**
 - b. She is still waiting to confirm **Terry Coonan**, Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, Associate Professor of Criminology and Courtesy Professor of Law, Florida State University
Check out:
<http://www.law.fsu.edu/faculty/tcoonan.html>
 - c. **Documentary possibilities for Wednesday, January 18?**
“Immokalee USA” A documentary about migrant workers in Florida.
Check out: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1217577/>. Another choice may be **“The Price of Sex,”** a documentary film investigating sex trafficking.
Check out: <http://priceofsex.org/>
 - d. Possible student panel? A student at FGCU who is a previous victim of human trafficking may be invited to speak.
 - e. Invite speakers from the Immokalee Coalition?

Lauren also reported that the “Students Advancing Human Rights” club had been approved by SGA. She also reported that on November 19, 2011, there will be a "Made by Us" at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fort Myers. Women artisans will sell crafts. The event is designed to raise consciousness

as well as funds. Proceeds will benefit the GRACE Project (Guatemalan Rural Adult & Children's Education) and the Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships Inc. Check out: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20111113/LIFESTYLES/111130305/Fort-Myers-event-showcases-local-women-artisans>

5. Russell discussed the spring **Diversity Celebration scheduled for February 29, 2012**. He emphasized that he would like to see us get a jump start on the event. He said that he and Mireille will set up subcommittees ASAP. For this year's celebration, the group will focus on the continent of Africa. Educational elements could include conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, etc. He talked to Michael Ramsdell to speak about the film he is working on related to the Democratic Republic of Congo Mineral Conflict. Check out his project: http://underthehoodproductions.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=3&Itemid=25
 Michael Ramsdell suggested that we install a photo exhibit to be on display before the event and/or he would use a digital slide show during his talk. Eileen said that if we were holding evening events, some Haitian students have already approached her about performing.
6. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.
7. Next meeting: TBA January

	Action Items	Owner(s)	Follow-up/Target Date
1.	Provide dates of V-day events as they are set.	Barbi Cox	ASAP
2.	Set up and assign members to subcommittees for the Diversity Celebration.	Russell Swanson and Mireille Lauture	ASAP-Before January Meeting?
3.	Set day/time for January meeting.	Russell Swanson	ASAP

Minutes submitted by Eileen DeLuca