

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 12th, 10:30am online via Teams

Committee Members: (Present in Bold) Alexander, Justin; **Butler, Juliette**; Byrd, Shinika; Cornelius, Jeffrey; Deamues, Kennedy; Ellis, Minnette; **Flippo, Cala**; Jones, Krimsyn; **Looser, Melanie**; **Hopkins, Rebecca**; **Patel, Dhrumil**; **Rhodes, Tammy**; **Sherrill, Lindsey**; Zelaya, Karla; Zills, Grace

- I. Approval of today's Agenda Butler/ Patel
- II. Approval of Minutes from February 20th, 2024 meeting: Zelaya/ Flippo
- III. Today's Business:

a) **President's Diversity Award:**

- Thank you, subcommittee, – Grace Zills, Shinika Byrd, Jeff Cornelius, Melanie Looser, and Juliette Butler
- Selected Awardees:
 - Faculty: Dr. Patricia Sanders
 - Organization: Navigators
- Thank you Minnette Ellis for sharing these awardees with the Awards Planning Committee

b) **Major Dewayne Williams Scholarship:**

Recipients of the scholarship must meet the following qualifications:

To the extent permitted by law, priority of consideration shall be given to a student that it is ***an incoming freshman whose enrollment would enhance the diversity*** of the University's student population, thereby improving the quality of the University's education experience and product. Or a ***current enrolled student with a minimum 2.5 GPA whose admittance enhances the diversity*** at UNA.

- MDW Application for 2024-2025 is open (November 1st, 2023).
- Application Deadline for students was March 1st, 2024
- Ms. Hannah Littrell, Scholarship Manager, aims to have the list of applications to MAC by approximately March 18, 2024
- **MAC Role: Select 2 scholarship recipients:** 1 incoming freshman *and* 1 currently enrolled student
 - Scholarship recipient names must be submitted to Ms. Littrell by May 1st, 2024
- **Identify volunteers for the MDW Scholarship Subcommittee**
 - The MDW subcommittee will meet to review nominees and select two students to receive this scholarship (1 incoming freshman and 1 currently enrolled)
 - April 19th The subcommittee will provide these names to the MAC Chair. The MAC Chair will submit the list to MAC to select the final 2. The chair will then distribute to all MAC members for an opportunity to review, make comments, and approve.
 - Final 2 narrowed down by Friday April 26th. Then Rebecca will submit the recipients to Minnette Ellis by May 1st. The chair will then distribute to all MAC members for an opportunity to review, make comments, and approve.
- **Ideas for Filtering the MDW Applications** from last meeting discussion –
 - Identify possible “diversity” areas for the focus of filtering applicants.

- Rebecca Hopkins – Share input from Deans of colleges
 - COEHS – Suggested filtering by male teachers, minority groups, and financial need
 - ACONHOP – Suggested filtering by one or both of the largest 2 minority groups in the ACONHP (and possibly at UNA) - African Americans and Hispanic students / And in conjunction with those that have financial need
 - CASE – Highlighted the need to recognize black male students and neurodiverse students. In addition to diversity in gender, race, and ethnicity (international).
- Other recommendations discussed by the committee are –
 - Filter by students who already have scholarships and those who have not received any.
 - Filter by who is actually committed to UNA
- **Check in with Lindsey Sherril** who has offered to look into this scholarship for ideas on filtering and selecting awardees.
- **Discussion: L. Sherill suggested to divide the applicants among the subcommittee and have each person view a certain amount and choose the best applicant in that pool, then return to the subcommittee and vote on the best applicants. She also thought that the diversity definition at UNA would be consistent with first generation college student, low income, AA, Hispanic students.**
- **Subcommittee: Patel, Sherril, Flipppo, Rhodes, Zills, Alexander**
Submit vote April 19th

c) Other Discussion

d) Schedule of last MAC Meeting

- Review MDW scholarship selections
- The committee will need to nominate and vote on the next Vice Chair.
- Grace Zills will be Chair next year.
- Possible meeting date – Tuesday April 23rd, 10:30am?

IV. Adjourn: 10:53 Butler/Zills