Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions
   Keturah Haferkamp and Mary Jeans welcomed Richard Brown, Jean Gorman, Rosa Maria Hernandez, Paul Martinez, and Alicia Roberson in the absence of Chair Luisa Hernandez, who was at the Leadership Academy Retreat.

2. Old Business
   We discussed the upcoming Diversity Brown Bag, and we talked about the relationship between this event and the LGBT Resource Fair.

3. New Business
   For new business, a discussion developed around various ways to raise awareness of diversity on campus. The ideas included incorporating the concept of diversity campus wide through curricula, for example, through discussions on special education and child development. It was acknowledged that people generally ask, “What’s in for me?”, and that would include raising interest in the Diversity Affairs Committee and its activities.

   A proposal came forward to have the Diversity Committee develop a mission statement that would help clarify the committee’s purpose in the campus community.

   An observation was made that students who speak another language, or who have an accent, need to know where to look for support. Rosa has been researching what other campuses are doing for diversity, including activities for students and employees.

   A question was raised about the arts project that was proposed last year.

   A suggestion was made to have a member of the Diversity Committee attend different diversity events on campus and report back to the group at the monthly meetings.

   Another ideas was to have a diversity corner on Triton Today that could highlight diversity initiatives not only on campus, but also around the nation and the world.

   If we piggybacked on Student Life’s events, some of the things they do could be “brought to you by Student Life and the Diversity Committee.”

   We could also use the display cases around campus to showcase artifacts from different cultures. In addition, we could post a “Diversity Question of the Day” on the plasma screens on campus and offer a prize for the correct answer. We could also post “Diversity Facts” around campus, including places
with high visibility for students, like the area around the cashier’s office and near the Welcome Center.

An observation was made that many student from different cultures are afraid to talk.

October 21st is National Coming Out Day, and maybe we could link to that.

Perhaps a survey could be sent to Latino students and Veterans, asking who we might serve them better.

It was also observed that if Administrators are not involved in events, Faculty may not be either and that diminishes the likelihood of students learning about diversity events.

If we had tournaments for sporting events, that include community members, both on and off campus, they could help build a sense of community, making people feel welcome. We need opportunities to interact with others in ways that help us learn about each other.

Some faculty offer extra credit for attending events and participating in activities.

Speakers can provide inspiration and motivation to students. In addition, it would be good to have more kid-friendly events.

It would be helpful to have a Counselor on our committee who could bring news of events for different groups like single parents and Veterans.

4. Announcements
   The Center for Access and Accommodative Services is offering a series of free workshops for students.

5. Next Meeting – November 6, 2014 3:00-4:00 B-203