



REPORT

From the office of the...

Diversity Services Director

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Lilian Obeng
SUBJECT: Diversity Services Report 2
DATE: July 22, 2017

UPDATE

All that Diversity Services has done in the last month have been extensions of past projects. I have gone forward with training the executive team and finished making their transition reports. Talks to be involved with multiple Welcome Week projects have continued; vis à vis training all Faculty and Residence Representatives, and holding events in residences (Edwards and Moulton). We have consulted conferences on creating their sessions and continued to book MSU Services for AOP Training.

SERVICE USAGE

Service usage is still limited to consultation through Alexii and myself. As previously stated, consultations and trainings are the form through which the service is utilized in the summer. I am to represent PACBIC on a committee tasked with editing the University's policy on how scholarships are awarded. I also met with Patrick Deane's committee on formalizing a policy on Freedom of Speech and the Right to Protest. Talks on how to make McMaster a "Sanctuary University" have also continued.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- Consulted with Horizons to create sessions
- Completed all transition reports
- Trained executives on July 16th

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

- AvTek responded to my email; they were in the midst of hiring and transitioning employees – Bridges training to take place within the next two weeks
- AOP for Horizons on July 22nd
- AOP for Maroons on August 19th
- Video on Trial Event in Moulton and possibly Edwards to be run during Welcome Week (official date and time pending)
- PACBIC Membership Discussions are still ongoing
- Student Success Centre Nurturing Diversity Training to faculty reps on August 19th, 24th, and 25th

- Clubsfest on September 6th
- Participation in the Common Reading Program's Human Library on September 6th
- AOP for Spark, WGEN, PSL, and SWHAT all tentatively set for September/early October

BUDGET

Once again, there has minimal movement with regards to our budget lines. The entirety of all that was spent was due to our first training on the 16th of July. I chose to spend \$35.20 on a last-minute projector from AvTek – I totally forgot projectors and laptops were available from the Office Clerk. I also chose to spend \$35 feeding my executive team during training. We kept it simple with a pizza, some drinks, and chips. Not the healthiest food choices, but satisfactory for a day-long training with multiple sessions. I am currently in the process of filling out all the necessary purchase orders. I also have the itemized receipts for all these expenditures. I personally got sidetracked and service t-shirts fell off the radar in terms of my priorities. As such, I am a little behind on getting those and am currently waiting on a quote from The Underground. They should be delivered in time to create promotional materials for volunteer hiring come September.

VOLUNTEERS

The first executive team training took place on July 16th. We covered the history of the service, gave an introduction to the MSU, went through the most expansive Knowledge Training the service has ever had (wherein lots of questions were asked and great conversations occurred), and took the team through a rough plan for our service working from the fall reading week backwards. AvTek will also be training, Alexii, Iku, and myself in how to operate the equipment in Bridges. I also finished all the transition reports for the executives and I am very tired.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

A minor roadblock I am encountering is maintain relationships with Indigenous groups on campus. I have tried to reach out to ISP and MISCA, but I am often met with no response. This trend in communication is incredibly worrisome as I am hesitant to act on behalf of Indigenous students without directly involving them in the process.

I have been meeting with Michele Corbeil in the Student Success Centre and have been given some specifics for training. We are to develop a 50-minute session and deliver it to audiences of 50 and 100 in six rotations over the course of three days. This is incredibly labour-intensive on our part. I have a tentative draft for what the training will look like, but I genuinely fear that this is being used to “cover bases” as opposed to ensuring that representatives are properly equipped to deal with complex situations. We are also encountering the issue of potentially not having enough facilitators to give the training. We have the TRRA at our disposal, and I am exploring reaching out to past Diversity Services members.

Another issue I am having is when exactly it is appropriate for me to decline to help or participate in an event. This August, the service is going to be stretched incredibly thin as we have far more commitments than we have had in the past, and less people available to help – the majority of my team are Welcome Week representatives or will not be in the country. It is important that Diversity Services maintains the incredible reputation it has with regards to accessibility and approachability, but I am reaching a limit in terms of what I can physically do.

Finally, taking on training with the SSC and ResLife means that both Alexii and I are most definitely exceeding our weekly hours. We do not want to put up barriers to accessing this

vital training, but our labour needs to be appreciated for what it is. Any thoughts on how to standardize pricing for training session would be greatly appreciated.

SUCSESSES

- Trained an executive team! We already have inside jokes – I am so pleased
- Helped modify and improve conference activities (i.e. Privilege Walk)

OTHER

Alexii is finally done with Brightspark and I now have a team I can delegate tasks to. It's a wonderful feeling!