

## **CEDI Leadership Board Meeting Minutes**

**October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

Present: Rhemi Abrams-Fuller, Christopher Dallager, Elise Eslinger (Advisor), Carolyn Fure-Slocum, Nina King '22, Danny Matthews, Jen McMurray, Suad Mohamed '23, Al Montero, Éva Pósfay, Steve Richardson, Laura Riehle-Merrill, Prathi Seneviratne, Jay Tasson, Miiko Taylor, Jayla Williams '21 (secretary), Trey Williams, Brisa Zubia

### **I. Acceptance of the 10/17/19 Leadership Board Minutes**

- The resources part of the meeting minutes should change to be about where people can find general resources instead of just hidden costs. This also needs to change on TRIO's page, (page 2, bullet 3) and the visitor during the meeting has a different title that needs to be changed.
- The meeting minutes for 10/17/19 were accepted with provisions.

### **II. Listening to the Campus; Encouraging Participation in the Winter Dialogue Project**

- Last year's pilot program is being developed into a regular winter term offering. The program creates groups of faculty, staff, and students to discuss topics/issues being presented at Convocations in weeks 1, 3, and 5 in winter term.
- This is a great opportunity to engage with others on campus around challenging topics. The discussions are meant to promote intergroup dialogue, and all on the CEDI Leadership Board are encouraged to participate.
- Brisa Zubia, chair of the Convocation Committee, offered to share more information at a future CEDI meeting about how the Convo Committee goes about making its selections.

### **III. Update from the Subcommittee to recommend approaches to the LIFG aspects of CEDI's charge**

- The subcommittee of Al Montero, Prathi Senevirantne, Miiko Taylor, Trey Williams, and Brisa Zubia met to reflect on the presentation at the previous Leadership Board meeting by Low Income First Generation (LIFG) Working Group co-chairs, Joe Baggot and Julia Strand.
- The subcommittee brainstormed long-term and short-term ideas for addressing remaining needs of LIFG students, and they shared their initial list of more easily addressed issues and longer term considerations with the Leadership Board.
- CEDI then had some preliminary discussion about the ideas of the subcommittee:
  - It is important for students to gain confidence with networking.
  - Would a credit course about financial literacy be targeted to LIFG students or be made available to more of the student body? The latter was encouraged, as it is important to make sure that LIFG students do not feel even more singled out. There was an emphasis on the

importance of defining what exactly financial literacy is as well as who would teach the course. Would it make sense to have a Financial Literacy Advisor?

- It's important to make a bigger commitment, earlier in their arrival on campus, to help the cohort of students who do not have access to TRIO.
- It is important to provide resources for advisors to help LIFG students
- NSW is incredibly packed with information, so it's important to develop other mechanisms to communicate and support LIFG students. Is there an opportunity to create a bridge program (like CUBE) for students before they come to campus?
- The Subcommittee will meet again to continue its discussions and will then come back to the Leadership Board with recommendations for how CEDI might consider approaching the LIFG topic during the rest of the 2019-20 academic year.

#### **IV. Periodic Reports from Liaisons/Representatives**

- Brisa Zubia, Director of the Office of Intercultural and International Life (OUIL) presented some updates, today focusing on OUIL's work with international students at Carleton:
- With the College pressing for 12% international student population (i.e., those holding student visas from a different country), we have a lot of students on campus who are navigating political changes in a variety of contexts, and these anxieties have implications for our community.
- Many programs to support the presence of international students are being reconsidered by the U.S. government, and for many, fees are increasing (e.g., Visa applications from \$200 to \$350; approval to work applications from \$380 to \$430). STEM majors vs. non-stem majors have different parameters (ONLY Majors, not minors—this is why you see so many international students double majoring in one STEM major and one non-STEM major). Processing fees for approvals are now taking six months instead of three. These are the challenges this population is navigating, in addition to culture shock, being away from home, etc.
- Employers are often reticent to hire international students whose work permits might be revoked or whose tenure is likely to be limited. OUIL works with Career Center to help establish realistic expectations around what international students will find with employment.
- There are also ways in which international students' participation in Carleton programs, like Off-Campus Studies is different from that of domestic students. OCS fees can be different based on one's nationality. Some international students need special letters to participate on OCS. It might be good to hold a session for International students and LIFG students with student panelists to share the issues they encountered and ways they navigated travel off campus.
- OUIL also supports DACA students. Some students choose to identify as DACA; some do not. The Dean of Students division extends support to DACA students, regardless of whether they identify as DACA. In OUIL, Brisa

is the designated person who knows who these students are, listens to their issues, and provides resources. There are some in-person meetings that students can opt into, but she doesn't "out" students who are DACA if they don't wish to be identified. OIIL and DOS both have resources on their websites for DACA students.

- OIIL is working to build stronger relationships with the Multicultural Alumni Network (MCAN). In the past, alumni have been involved through making financial contributions to the College to support multicultural students and serving as mentors/role models. MCAN is presently considering how it can best be involved, and OIIL is standing by to leverage this resource.

## **V. CSA Liaison Report**

- CSA Liaison to CEDI Suad Mohammad shared that the CSA focused at its last meeting on information it was hearing about Disability Services. Concerns of students include:
  - Making sure faculty have training and understanding about providing academic accommodations to students with disabilities and that students understand the process for requesting such accommodations.
  - Making sure there are adequate facilities available for testing accommodations
- Director of Disability Services Chris Dallagher noted that there is some misinformation circulating about the ability of students to receive accommodations. He encouraged students who are having issues to reach out to him with their concerns.

## **VI. What Happened Since We Last Met?**

Miiko Taylor reported on the Student Activities-sponsored "Winter Wardrobe" event to provide gear for students who might not be able to afford it. 517 winter items were collected, and over 400 visits were made to the space, distributing 413 items. Donations came from the campus community and from alumni and parents, some of whom did coat drives at home and then brought the donated coats with them to Parents Weekend. The Wardrobe will open again for a week early in winter term to help equip students who were off campus in the fall.

The Carleton Cupboard will open again over winter break, and a food drive to stock it is happening this week. An Amazon Wishlist was also created so people can donate online and ship directly to Carleton. As with the Wardrobe, the campus community, as well as parents and alumni have been supporting this effort.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm*