

Council for Equity and Community Town Hall Meeting

September 15, 2008

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Comments/suggestions/ideas/fragments gleaned from the open forum...

From a student: Lots of her peers don't read their e-mails or check out the web site. We need a more "guerrilla" approach to attract them, such as members of the council, particularly the student members, going to where students are. Also e-mailing professors and asking them to spread the news to their classes.

Suggestion: an online forum for reporting problems anonymously

Campus tours conducted by people other than ASAs. The president of the ASAs responded that they are engaged in a "huge effort" to better educate themselves.

Compile anonymous stories from people who have been confronted with intolerance, then make a movie of these narratives.

Calvin Smiley of the Black Student Union said his group has received nothing from the CEC. He urged us to reach out to make students feel invited/included.

To get students involved, maybe a competition between students to design flyers. Consider outsourcing some of our tasks to student groups.

Plan for specific dates (This will be done by such and such time) to give people a sense of our progress. If they see a date, they will look forward to it.

Get involved with the community of South Side Bethlehem.

Fully one-third of our faculty has been replaced in recent years. Look into whether we have taken advantage of the opportunity to diversify, including with regard to women.

How does the university address hate crimes? According to an administrator, many students have transferred because they feel marginalized—or worse.

John McKnight applauded our plan to conduct an audit of campus. He feels we should address the actual benefits of diversifying Lehigh. "Why does diversity matter?" is a better starting point for us, he argued. McKnight's office is starting an open mike series to give students a chance to tell their stories.

A representative of HR said they will be happy to discuss the matter of nonexempt staff working unpaid overtime.

Resources are wasted because people are so spread out all over campus. We need to have one spot where all this stuff happens.

Tim Wilkinson: While results of their survey were not released to the public (not statistically relevant), they have looked at them. He spoke of a multicultural Greek council and pointed out that 20% of our frats have been let go for not meeting the standards.

A student responded that accreditation and statistics are fine, but when blacks and latinos can't get admitted, and women have to dress a certain way to get into parties on the hill, that's wrong. Tom Dubreuil asked everyone to help make Greek life better.

Cultural center on campus

Reach out and use the talents of community activists.

Story circle

A student wondered if our SAT standards are limiting us as far as the types of students we can bring here. Jennifer said we have not lessened our standards. President Gast said there are no set standards for SATs, they are just one measure.

If we consolidate all the various groups into one place, there is a danger of marginalizing them.

Are we addressing the alumni? Some don't give because they feel the Lehigh tradition has been lessened. Henry said efforts are now being made to reengage black and latino alumni and get them reconnected to the university.

We need to focus on opening the minds of the students who are here now.

*****Estimated attendance: 150