Jutura Meeting, Nov 10, 2011, 3pm.

Those in attendance: Jamie Nekich (chair), Rochelle Smith, Denise Carl, Juan Corona, Liz Morin, Jerry Galloway, Heather Maib, Shawn Greenberg. We had a voting quorum with 5 of 9 voting members present.

Agenda for the meeting was to 1) review and revise a draft document written by Jamie Nekich outlining a structure/ function/ name for Juntura if the proposed merger with AADA is approved, 2) vote on the elements of the document to be submitted to the C on C meeting scheduled for late November, 3) review any remaining business.

Announcements: Jamie Nekich reminded the group that they will be meeting with Charles Graham,

Discussion of possible merger: group members identified the overlap in membership (ex officio) in the two committees and outlined tasks that were the focus of the two groups in the preceding two years. It was noted by Rochelle Smith, former chair of AA&D, that current needs on campus have moved that committee toward addressing disability compliance issues with respect to physical structure and technology. It was noted by Carmen Suarez that Juntura has a long list of accomplishments focused primarily on recommendations for adequate paid staff for positions in our campus diversity centers.

One possible proposal for a merger might involve retaining the focus on policies and programs affecting underrepresented groups in one committee and shifting the disability compliance focus to the newly formed ADA Task Force (overseen by Human Rights, Access, and Inclusion Office) and adding members from faculty senate to that task force.

This merger would create faculty senate committee to address policies and programs affecting underrepresented and/ or under-served faculty, staff, and students. It was discussed that a formal alliance with the President's Diversity Council would be a meaningful and logical connection; perhaps appointing a member or two from the PDC to the newly merged committee.

There was a discussion that this committee is composed of eight (out of seventeen) non-voting members primarily staff from student services and diversity offices. These committee members regularly attend committee meetings while many voting members are absent leaving the committee with inadequate numbers to reach a voting quorum (and hamstringing decision-making in the committee). It was discussed if there would be value in giving voting privileges to all members on the committee and this will be discussed further. Jamie Nekich, chair, will contact faculty senate leaders to discuss protocol with regard to considering changing voting rights.

The committee will 1) begin to draft a proposal including these points, 2) invite members of the AA, & D to the next meeting for discussion and 3) begin discussion with faculty senate members regarding a possible committee merger. The committee wishes to proceed with a formal proposal to Faculty Senate this Fall.

Brainstorming Goals for the 2011/12 academic year:

The group agreed that accomplishing meaningful work was vital to energizing the Juntura committee. Many ideas surfaced as possible directions for the coming year: 1) providing input into choice of the Freshman common read, 2) sponsoring invited speakers with the goal of uniting the campus around important diversity issues (suggestion, Judy Shepard who recent released "The Meaning of Matthew: My Son's Murder in Laramie", 3) re-establishing an educational series started by Juntura two years ago focused on recognized books, 4) educational programming and consciousness raising about hate groups on campus and/ or in the region, 5) recommended action on benefits for domestic partners on the U of I campus.

The group feels it is important to engage proactively in the campus community rather than responding only in reaction to events that arise across campus.

The committee adjourned at 4pm.