

## Juntura Meeting, End of Year Report (2011-2012)

This report summarizes the work and accomplishments of the Juntura committee from September 2011 to May 2012 and has been written by Jamie Nekich (chair) and approved by vote of the committee at large.

The Juntura committee submitted a formal proposal to faculty senate to merge with the AADA committee to create a new committee with the name of Ubuntu. The purpose of the merger of these two committees was to extend the focus of Juntura to include faculty, staff and students and broaden the focus of the committee to include issues of affirmative action and disability across academic learning, employment, and programming/ activities.

The merger and new name "Ubuntu" was approved by faculty senate in March of 2012. The newly formed Ubuntu committee will focus on addressing the needs of underserved/ under-represented groups of faculty, staff, and students. The focus will be on issues of social justice and inclusion at the University of Idaho campus.

The name Ubuntu was chosen by the committee as it's new name because

- Ubuntu is a philosophical approach to community which views the collective or whole as paramount. If any member of a community is diminished or limited then the community as a whole is diminished.
- Ubuntu is descriptive of a process rather than an endpoint; it the way things are done --- therefore it is dynamic and always asking questions. "As you enrich yourself, are you able to do so in a way that allows the community around you to also improve?"

Throughout the academic year 2011-2012 the Juntura met monthly for one hour. The committee formed three subcommittees to accomplish goals set by committee. We have formed a media subcommittee, a common read subcommittee, and a domestic partners benefits subcommittee.

The 'Media' subcommittee, chaired by Heather Maib, developed a website presence for the newly formed Ubuntu committee. Leah, the web developer for Student Support Services/ Multicultural Affairs/ LGBTQA programming, helped design and establish the website Ubuntu. Initially the site will be a shell or 'holding space' as the committee writes the content and collects images for the site. This was completed in April of 2012. Content and photographs will be added in Fall 2012. This site is linked to the diversity page on the campus home page.

The 'Domestic Partners' subcommittee, chaired by Heather Gasser, wrote a document to be sent to the Faculty Senate and President outlining inconsistencies between policies the University implements regarding domestic partners and statements of their values as laid out in the FSH. In addition, the letter will document what has happened in other states/ other universities and the actions of the City of Moscow with respect to extending domestic partner benefits and will urge the President to take action to provide medical benefits for domestic partners. This letter will be delivered Fall 2012.

The 'Common Read' subcommittee, chaired by Rochelle Smith created influence on the Common Read Selection Committee. Rochelle sits on the common read selection committee and she was able will relay the Juntura's concerns that the topics of the books reflect the diversity of our campus.

Juntura also began a discussion of the needs of international students on campus with respect to the 'Dream Act'. Currently undocumented students who graduate from Idaho high schools are treated as international students and have to pay increased fees to attend college. Fourteen states have laws that eliminate these added fees if students meet specific criteria --- such as attending a state HS for at least 3 years and graduating. Among the states who have adopted Dream Acts are Utah and Washington. Juntura feels interested in pursuing this topic and perhaps finding a way to change the policies on our campus. This business will be addressed in the Fall of 2012.