Social Justice Communications Subcommittee Annual Report May 16, 2011
Members: Katayoun Chamany (Lang/ Science), and Monique Ngozi Nri (Int Student Services) Darrick Hamilton (Milano), and Elizabeth Friedrich (Lang), Elizabeth Lackner (Inst Research); Ashia Moultrie (Milano Students for Social Justice); Tamara Oyola Santiago (Health Educator, University Wellness and Health Promotion)

Accomplishments for this past academic year

- **SJ Mission Statement**
    - Nri and others provided examples of existing mission statements on our own campus, others, and organizations that we felt shared our ethos.
    - Reviewed older existing New School Documents including: Mission Statement, the Diversity Statement, and the Working Group Report for key words and phrases.
    - Chamany designed a survey to collect data from SJ committee members on words or phrases that they felt embodied the mission of TNS and distributed and collected these data.
    - Lackner then organized the data to identify common themes of agreement, and items or words that were currently missing from the mission statement. These data were used to inform the drafting of the mission statement, which was initially drafted by Nri.
    - The draft statement was shared with the SJ members and another survey was designed by Chamany and distributed to gather feedback that further informed the revision.
    - Successive rounds of discussion, revisions, online editing, resulted in lots of constructive feedback involving all members. Oyola Santiago contributed useful comments specific to advocacy, and Lackner reminded us of the original phrases and sentiments from the SJ committee members. All members contributed feedback through successive drafts. Nri was the lead on this mission redrafting.
    - In all, three drafts of a mission statement were shared with the general committee and the mission statement approved and posted in April 2011. We swapped this mission statement out for the " Statement" that was previously posted.

- **SJ Home Page** http://www.newschool.edu/leadership/provost/social-justice/
    - Reviewed the mini-research report produced by Ariel Merkel, graduate student in NSSR for Trisha Toelstedt from the Clinical Psychology PhD program in October 2010. This report helped the subcommittee see what work had already been conducted to better understand how social justice or diversity could be found on the home pages of larger institutions such as Columbia, Fordham, CUNY, NYU and a few clinical psych oriented institutions such as LIU and Adelphia, as well as where " social justice" and " diversity" appears on TNS website. The idea is a first impression from the stance of a prospective student; most prominent and easily identifiable social justice/ diversity information are those which are well-funded by external resources (SMART/ MARC scholars programs etc). There was some good information regarding centers, students' organizations, and events that the Subcommittee used to link out to from the SJ home page.

- Worked with the Deborah Bogosian in the Provost Office to reformat the site to have pull down menus for various items such as " Committee Members" and " Useful Links" which is further subdivided into "Student Resources," " Other New School Resources," and "Partnerships"
- Chamany designed a SJ specific biographies template, and collected biographies and photographs that were posted on the Home Page under "Committee Members" in April 2011.
- Chamany designed a survey with input from other members, distributed and collected data on potential internal and external links and resources from SJ committee Members.

- **Taking the Pulse on Outreach.** Chamany designed a survey to assess the level to which SJ members are representing the committee in non-committee venues such as informal conversations, other committee meetings, Board Meetings, Faculty Meetings, Staff Meetings, student spaces. Nri converted the survey into a Survey Monkey accessible and we distributed via the meeting notes and emails to the committee. Feedback was collected by hard copy and by Survey Monkey, and will be analyzed by Lackner for sharing back with committee.

Goals for next year

- **Member Expectations**. To clearly define membership in terms of experience; expertise, and skills, expectations for active membership; and more equally share in workload including process from idea to implementation; process and participation for decision-making; and supervisor, divisional support.

- **Communication/Outreach:** To ensure an egalitarian process for engaging outside groups and members such that cross talk is fostered and that the committee has fair and reasonable deadlines for official responses, we ask that groups be given dedicated time to present and share with the SJ committee and that deadlines be set for official response.

  - **Getting back to Individuals and Organizations:** Chamany has been asked by the following if they can be involved: Ann Snitow Gender Studies, Phil Silva, Environmental Studies/ Urban; Nidhi Srivinas, from Milano, Dan Hill Parsons Faculty, Robin Mookerjee Lang Faculty.
  - **Home Page:** Continue to work with the Provost Office and Communications to determine how best to situate the Home Page, and generate easy search capabilities from any location on TNS Web Site. **JUNE Meeting TBD.**
  - **Feedback And Revision:** Continue to work with other SJ Committee members to gather feedback from the community about our work, the Working Group Report (feedback box?), and other items that may be posted on our site.
  - **Making Connections to Others**
    - **Host an Event:** to gather awareness of what currently exists on campus; the Faculty of Color Reception garnered a great deal of interest, so would include those individuals as well as staff and administrators whose work lies directly in these areas and learn more about how we can effectively collaborate and build bridges

- **Encourage SJC Members to speak at General Faculty or Staff Meetings**
- **Review membership** of key university committees by SJC members and support promotion of SJC initiatives and agendas eg Civic Engagement; Faculty Senate; Student Senate; Middle States etc
- **Oversee campus climate assessment**, which others will conduct.

- **Making Connections to Students**
  - **COURSEWARE SITE:** Determine if there can be a standing link on the Online Courseware (Blackboard or other) created for each course on campus that directly links our site to courses offered on campus
  - **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.** Determine if Erin Schwartz (see contact info below) who is the Coordinator of Student Organizations can include our information in the information Binder provided to each organization such that all events would be sent to us, so that we might coordinate events with a social justice theme and increase participation for events or organizational activities.
  - **AWARENESS EFFORTS.**
    - Create a flyer announcing the Social Justice Committee, its URL, list of resources available at the URL, and alert students to the schedule of meetings in the fall with a note about agenda and meeting notes being posted on the site in line with our mission to provide transparency and foster communication with the university committee. The flyer would be included in orientation packet
    - Staff a table at the block party and inform students and others of SJC initiatives and opportunities for engagement via the Social Justice Flyer mentioned above and a list of existing student organizations and events around campus connected to social justice.

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