05-27-2014 Community Meeting Minutes

Called to order 2:33 by Sara Goldstein

Announcements

Rachel Hale from the Advancement Office presents a new event called Tuesday 2 Tuesday Giving, a fundraiser for Antioch College starting this week.

Diversity and Inclusion Self-Study is continuing on Campus. Nick Daily encourages more members of the community to participate.

Kijin announces that the deadline is approaching for sending a Letter to the Editor of the Record.

Kevin McGruder announces that the World House Choir begins rehearsals on Monday, June 2nd at 7o’clock.

Nikki announces that the Yearbook is looking for contributions from everyone, especially from third year students.

Maggie Rusnak announces the approaching financial aid deadline (June 1st for financial aid, even the HMF)

Ann reminds us that the deadline for break-housing is approaching.

Nick Daily also reminds us that there is an all hall meeting tonight at 9:00.

Senior Center is doing a flashmob on Short Street, Wednesday, at 1pm.

The Presbyterian Church is calling for volunteers for the Strawberry festival happening at Street Fair. Get in touch with Jennifer Berman for more details.

Jessica Steinruek announces that farm volunteer hours are tonight from 5:00 to 7:00pm. They will be planting the food forest at the south side of the golf course.

Human Sustainability

Sara opens the discussion on human sustainability…

“Are we doing everything that we can to sustain ourselves?”

“Do we have a balanced community?” (Classroom, Co-op, Community)
Sustainability- able to maintain at certain rate or level.

Caucus format
- Staff
- Faculty
- Administration
- Students

Question Set #1

1) Why is human sustainability at Antioch important?

2) What are your major reasons for staying?

3) Identify main answers to question 2

4) Identify things that are working and they could be expanded.

5) Share with the group

Question Set #1 Report Out

By group:

(reported reasons for staying) The people, that we matter here, connecting with the vision, the students, and being part of something bigger than us.

(reported reasons for staying) “The people, and [above]. It’s important to recognize that we’re all working really hard and working for similar goals at all levels of the institution (students, staff and faculty).”

(reported reasons for staying) “Opportunity, “blind-optimism”, some people feel “stuck” here, so they have to make it work”

(reported reasons for staying) “Believing in the mission, that something valuable is happening here, that you can see change happening here). Searches take a lot of energy and we lose momentum whenever we lose someone.

Question Set #2

“One enemy of human sustainability is burnout, and burnout often occurs as a result of stressors - can we identify some specific stressors for students, administrators, staff, and faculty?”
1) What structures at Antioch make this project unsustainable? ex academic structure, expectations, social structures, quarter calendar

2) Identify your group’s top structures

3) Share with the larger group

**Question Set #2 Report Out**

People feel urged to take lots of credits, perhaps more than they should. Also, co-op can feel like being left with little support.

A lot of the conflict that comes up arise because people aren’t familiar with how to talk about social justice issues. Perhaps having a class around the topic could be beneficial for the community.

Some of the systems that we identified were the quarter system and co-op systems. These systems seem to almost “multiply each other”. The pace of expansion was also a topic of scrutiny. A “freezing and thawing of our structures as we build them, test them, freeze them, and thaw them”. Included in this conversation was the lack of systems in place and having to build those systems while executing them. “We’re building a boat as we’re sailing it, and often times in an attempt to sail to different destinations”.

We as students don’t really know the trials and tribulations of the faculty. We don’t understand what it’s like to be a faculty member.

(In response) Faculty mirrored some of the concerns already voiced by the students and staff. The time between quarters is typically used for writing narrative evaluations or modifying syllabi. Faculty are also concerned about transitions and the difficulties that arise (not knowing who to go to for solutions). Research term tends to come between faculty members and their relationships. Research term moves around and policies are shifting and it’s difficult to get stable systems.

Staff- being understaffed, having someone else’s emergency being my emergency, communication gaps, relying on someone but not communicating well, accountability, turnover, quarter system, break time, lack of institutional commitment to social justice/diversity, ideological issues creating rifts on our ability to work together, lack of clarity and transparency, lack of transportation/resources, meetings being about reporting out “what I’ve done” instead of “how can I help you do your job”.

Next Community Meeting on the topic of Rigor vs. Vigor
Adjourned 3:30 by Sara Goldstein.