

## HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL MEETING

24 April 2008 – 2:15 p.m. – Chancellor’s Suite

### MINUTES

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Simone James Alexander	Ingrid Hill	Rosario Reyes	Viswanathan Viswa	
	Lori Brown	Pat Linfante	Joseph Sandman	Elaine Walker, <i>Co-Chair</i>	
	Peter Capar ( <i>sitting in for Charee Marquez</i> )	Robert Martin	Renee Shalhoub ( <i>sitting in for Trang Cao</i> )	Linda Walter	
	Therese Chidiac	Grace May	Monsignor Robert Sheeran	Thomas White	
	Marta Deyrup	Joseph Quinlan	Karen Van Norman	Father Anthony Ziccardi, <i>Co-Chair</i>	
Tara Hart					
<b>GUESTS</b>	Jonathan Castaneda, <i>Student</i>	Catalina Isaza, <i>Student</i>	Ileana Rodriguez, <i>Director, Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute</i>	Ivan Vilela, <i>Student</i>	
	Liza Chu, <i>Student</i>				
<b>EXCUSED</b>	Vikram Basava	Terrance Cahill	Dennis Garbini	Charee Marquez	Christopher Sharrett
	Susan Basso	Trang Cao	Guillermo Gonzalez	Shirley Matthews	Maria Soares
	Angela Berry	Julieta Carraballo	Tracy Gottlieb	Phillip Moreman	Father James Spera
	Mallory Bodhuin	Ki Joo Choi	Lauren Jackson	King Mott	Darren Sweeper
	Sister Paula Buley	Patricia Donahue	Lauren Kane	Joan Osthues	James Tavormina
	Robert Burke	Gabriel Esteban	Catherine Kiernan	Erwin Ponder	Dianne Traflet
	Monsignor James Cafone	Marie Foley	Robert Manjrawala	Arveny Rodriguez	Laura Wankel

TOPIC	DISCUSSION / ACTION / PROPOSAL	RESPONSIBILITY / TIME FRAME
CALL TO ORDER	Father Ziccardi called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.	
OPENING PRAYER	Father Ziccardi offered the opening prayer.	
OPENING REMARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Walker welcomed the Council members to the last meeting of this academic year.</li> <li>Monsignor Sheeran spoke of the Commencement honorary degree recipients, Tony Snow, former White House Press Secretary and Immaculée Ilibagiza, writer. He asked that Mr. Snow be kept in our prayers as he was recently hospitalized. He is still due to be the Commencement speaker. Immaculée Ilibagiza wrote the book, <i>Left to Tell</i>, in which she shares her family experience of the genocide in Rwanda. It is a beautiful testimony of forgiveness. <i>Left to Tell</i> is the required book for the incoming freshmen.</li> </ul>	
ICE BREAKER AND PRESENTATION: <b>HISPANIC HOW? AT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Rodriguez led an icebreaker where Council members were asked to write a poem describing one’s culture. Each line had to begin with the phrase “I am” and every member had to contribute at least two lines. A member of each table read the poem that they created. The poems gave a sense of how we may view ourselves or view others both on and off campus. This exercise led to the PowerPoint presentation (attached). Dr. Rodriguez read a poem entitled, <i>What is Latino</i> by Ariso Herrera. She went on to show different definitions of a Latino/a. Latino. Latina/o is the</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>SETON HALL AND BEYOND</b>                      DR. ILEANA RODRIGUEZ</p>	<p>most commonly term used. Other terms used are Spanish, Latin and Hispanic, although these terms may not fully represent every possible interpretation and perspective. The Council was shown the definition as described by the US Census Bureau and the current and projected statistics of the Hispanic population in the US. Dr. Rodriguez sent out a questionnaire to both Hispanic staff and students to get an idea of how they identify themselves, what their experience at Seton Hall has been and what they would like Seton Hall to provide going forward. The results of this questionnaire are attached. The following students shared their own experiences as Hispanics at Seton Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonathan Castañeda – Jonathan was born in New Jersey. His parents were born in Cuba and Colombia. There is an 80% Hispanic population in the town from which he comes. Jonathan thought that he would experience culture shock when coming to Seton Hall as Hispanics are only 10% at the University. Thanks to the organizations such as Adelante, his transition was easy and he has had a great experience.</li> <li>• Liza Chu – Liza was born in Ohio, but was raised in Panama where most of her family lives. Her father is Chinese and her mother is Latin American. Her experience here at Seton Hall has been very good and she has made many friends. Liza is on the tennis team and also participates in many other student activities.</li> <li>• Catalina Isaza – Catalina came to the US from Colombia seven years ago. She transferred from a university in Texas to Seton Hall and her transition was very positive. Catalina is on the tennis team and joined the Latino Institute as a GA which has helped her feel more connected to the University.</li> <li>• Ivan Vilela – Ivan expressed his gratitude to the Council for their interest in Latino issues. His academic experience has been positively influenced by his Spanish heritage. On a social level, Ivan noted that others are usually surprised when meeting him as most Hispanics are not as tall as he is. Ivan is involved in many student activities. He would like to see more Hispanics take leadership roles at Seton Hall.</li> <li>• Dr. Rodriguez gave a history of the growth of the Hispanic population and its programs/activities at Seton Hall. She presented suggestions from staff and faculty to help develop Hispanic programs and improve the conditions of Hispanics at Seton Hall. The latest developments are the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute and the recently approved BA in Latin American &amp; Latino Studies.</li> <li>• Father Ziccardi reminded the Council members that as leaders of the University, these meetings exist so that they can be sensitized to the issues and bring the concerns to their respective areas for better relations on campus.</li> </ul>	
<p>COMMITTEE REPORTS</p>	<p><b>Awards, Recognitions, Communications</b> – <i>Robert Burke and Thomas White, Co-Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two students were awarded the Ramon Ramos Medal. This award is given to students who exemplify character and strength though adversity. The recipients were T.J. Olsen, who most know is blind and is talented and successful, and George Mihalik, who has cancer and has still been able to maintain a 3.9 GPA while being in and out of the hospital. The medals were bestowed at the Leadership Awards dinner on Monday, 21 April.</li> </ul> <p><b>Diversity Recruitment</b> – <i>Ingrid Hill and Ki Joo Choi, Co-Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee met yesterday and is still compiling as much data as possible on faculty with regard to diversity. Minorities are not well-represented on the faculty. How do we increase faculty of other cultures and encourage students to pursue a career in academics? The Committee plans on working with the Career Center to help inform students of the possible careers in academics. Father Ziccardi mentioned that the Provost, at his former institution, started a program of sponsoring minority students through doctoral studies in return for their coming back to the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>institution and teaching for a number of years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are also working on ways to develop a proposal for funding so that students of color can study abroad.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning Resources</b> – <i>Grace May and Maria Soares, Co-Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee continues to seek information from the colleges on the range of courses offered relating to diversity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Programming Committee</b> – <i>Rosario Reyes-Urbina, Charee Marquez and Trang Cao, Co-Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The theme this year for the Committee has been, Many Minds, Many Voices, One Family. This Committee strives to enhance awareness of different groups on campus. Renee Shalhoub and Peter Capar both spoke of their own positive experiences of being part of this Committee.</li> <li>The National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) serves to promote diversity and applies to all student learning. It is a program held on campus to help eliminate prejudice and oppression. A presentation on this program is done during Welcome Week for freshman. Monthly workshops and the Train the Trainer program are also offered to the University community. Currently, there are 100 trained NCBI members on campus. There are three new caucus groups: Women’s Caucus, Male Privilege and White Allies against Racism. Both Ms. Shalhoub and Mr. Capar shared their experience of being part of NCBI. Council members were encouraged to attend the last NCBI workshop being held tomorrow. Ms. Shalhoub read a quote that sums up the work of this Committee and NCBI – “Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.”</li> </ul> <p><b>Training &amp; Development</b> – <i>Therese Chidiac and Susan Basso, Co-Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee identified seven initiatives and has been working on two of the seven. Two companies were reached for requests of proposals to come to campus. One company is SST Communications, a theater group that does presentations on diversity, and the other is Steve Robbins, whose company also does programs on diversity. Some have heard him speak and recommend the program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Website Committee</b> – <i>Linda Walter and Darren Sweeper, Co-Chairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee has made some progress having met three times with IT personnel. Now that the Committee is informed and aware of the work needed to create this website, it can move forward and make decisions. The Committee will meet this summer as most will be on campus.</li> </ul>	
CLOSING PRAYER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Father Ziccardi offered the closing prayer.</li> </ul>	
ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.	

*Respectfully submitted,  
Father Anthony Ziccardi, Co-Chair, Human Relations Council  
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