

Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes – Consultation about October conference
Friday, 9/3/21

Present: Karen Sherwood, Chris Thomas, Norma Caruso, Linda Hopkins, Andi Eliza-Christie

Respectfully Submitted by: Andi Eliza-Christie

August Meeting minutes approved

Discussion:

Karen announces that Linda Hopkins, Chris Thomas and Liz Kennedy will be presenting cases on Saturday.

Norma and Chris have each volunteered to chair presentations.

Beverly Green added one article to the required reading. Her extensive reading list will be shared with the Diversity Committee. Also added was an article by Beverly Stoute and an MLK speech addressing the APA.

Karen shared the marketing letter she and Anne are sending out to faculty. The committee thought the email should be sent out to a broader group beyond the faculty, perhaps the entire IPI membership, or email listserv to engage a more racially diverse group of people. An additional suggestion was to follow up with a separate email directly to faculty and perhaps students emphasizing the need for help with outreach and marketing.

Karen shared the application for scholarship monies for feedback from the committee. The committee agrees, unanimously and strongly, that the scholarship is too intrusive in terms of asking for income and financial information, especially in an application for a weekend conference only, but even for longer term programs. The questions suggest a tone of distrust and suspiciousness. The committee suggested more open-ended questions for applicants, such as “what are the circumstances that have led you to apply for scholarship funding?” The committee discussed that we know very little about how many, and how diverse, scholarship applicants are. Perhaps with a more competitive scholarship pool, there might be some need to assess finances more accurately, but we would still encourage broader, less specific questions. It is also important to keep in mind that IPI is benefitting from involvement from more diverse participation, and that it is a mutually beneficial relationship.

We discussed breakout questions, and Karen will follow up with an email to the committee if she needs any more thoughts from the committee about those questions after discussing with Dr. Beverly Greene.