

Multicultural Community and College Life Committee (MCCL) Annual Report to the Faculty 2016-2017

For mission, tasks, and responsibilities please see the MCCL website:
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/multicultural_life

Committee Members 2016-2017

The Multicultural Community and College Life Committee (MCCL) includes Mount Holyoke faculty, administrators, staff, and students. The following individuals served on the Committee during the 2016-2017 Academic Year

Member	Affiliation
Iyko Day	Associate Professor of English
Latrina Denson	Assistant Dean of Students
Karen Fernandez	Class of 2017
KC Haydon (Co-Chair)	Assistant Professor of Psychology & Education
Katie McMenimen	Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Tatiana Michel	Class of 2018
Mary Ramsay (Co-Chair)	Director of Foundations and Sponsored Research
Donna Van Handle	Senior Lecturer of German Studies, Dean of International Students
Nashalie Vazquez	Associate Director of Residential Life
Jonencia Wood	Alumnae Association Senior Director of Programs
Wesley Yu	Associate Professor of English

Meeting Schedule

This year the MCCL Committee met every other Monday afternoon, and additionally as needed, to discuss developments on and around campus pertaining to diversity and inclusiveness within and beyond the MHC community.

Accomplishments in 2016-2017

Restructuring and Reorganization

In response to several changes in campus leadership, as well as the dissolution of the President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, the MCCL consulted with Deans Western, Mosby, and Hall to determine a new advisory and reporting structure. The outcome was that MCCL now reports to and advises Dean Hall. The administrative staff in the Dean of Students office now provides support for MCCL, including management of listservs and the website and distribution of Inclusiveness Initiative Funding. Additionally, the MCCL affirmed its desire to play a more proactive role in addressing community concerns and improving campus climate, in contrast to recent years in which MCCL efforts centered more on gathering data on campus climate.

Post-Election Support for Community Members

In the immediate aftermath of the 2016 national election, members of the MCCL hosted several spaces for student dialogue in cultural houses and other locations. Through the remainder of the year, Mary Ramsay worked with a student group to help them think about allyship and whiteness, which met five times under the name, “Disrupting Whiteness.” Along with Linda S, Mary also led a staff/faculty group on white privilege. The MCCL also opened the latter hour of its remaining Fall meetings to any/all members of the community who wished to discuss concerns related to the post-election campus climate.

Inclusiveness Initiative Funding (IIF)

Three times a year, MCCL distributes Inclusive Initiatives Funds (IIF), which allow students, staff, and faculty to put on workshops, cultural events, galleries, and academic projects. Wes Yu chaired the sub-committee and all MCCL members participated in review and award decisions. From our budget of \$7,500.00, the committee awarded funds to 16 events and projects. Five of these were faculty- or staff-driven events, while the rest were organized by individual students and student organizations. IIF funds supported the following events:

Date	Event Description
Nov 3	Public lecture by Jodi Kim, “Debt Imperialism, Settler Modernity, and Militarized Sleights of Hand in Asia and the Pacific” (\$600.00).
Nov 12-13	Public Lecture & Workshops. Eduardo Placer, “Dynamic Public Speaking Coaching for Women Leaders and Change-Makers” (\$1,000.00).
Dec 2016	Hands-on science workshop and exhibit to promote interest in STEM fields, make MHC Makerspace more inclusive of different learning types (\$300.00).
Dec 2	Fall Asian American Students in Action (AASIA) Journal (\$260.00).
Spring 2017	8-10 min film to accompany senior thesis on topic surrounding the Korean diaspora and former Korean comfort women (\$300.00).
Spring 2017	Photo series using 20 volunteer models on Asian Americans and “hypocrisy of the American Dream,” focusing on “mental illness, pressure, fear, sadness, and diaspora” (\$153.95).
Feb 15	Building Bridges: A Trans and Queer People of Color Speaker Series (see Apr 15).
Mar 1-11	Gallery show and group dialogue gatherings on the topic of expression and wellness among self-identified women of color (\$300.00).
Mar 2	“From Social Media to Social Change.” Presentations and dinner with speaker, Sonya Renee Taylor (\$326.50).
Mar 20	“Revolutionary Vietnamese Women and Global Solidarity” (\$200.00).
Mar 24-26	Five College Model United Nations Conference (\$346.50).
Mar 25-26	DEAFinitions: A Deaf Studies Conference. Space for deaf artists, performers, academics, and others to share work; learning opportunities for hearing community (\$346.50).
Apr 1	Women of Color Trailblazers in Leadership Conference consisting of workshops on peer networking, professional and personal development, and leadership. Keynote Staceyann Chin (\$1,000.00).
Apr 6-8	African Cinema Symposium and Festival (\$1,000.00)
Apr 15	Building Bridges: A Trans and Queer People of Color Speaker Series (\$346.50).
May 5	Symposium and performance on intersectional identities, multi-modal cultural practices, and marginalization of Black, queer, bi-lingual, and immigrant subjects and artists (\$1,000.00).

Ombudsperson Search Committee

Two members of MCCL – Jonencia Wood and KC Haydon – served on the search committee to select a new Ombudsperson. The committee met regularly between December 2016-March 2017, when the search concluded successfully.

BOOM! Steering Committee

Four members of the MCCL – Latrina Denson, Mary Ramsay, Jonencia Wood and Wes Yu – served on the steering committee for the BOOM! Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Their role was to help plan and execute the delivery of the BOOM! Conference. The committee also listened, observed and collected information on how to move the DEI initiative forward. Having debriefed with the steering committee on the information gathered, the committee's work will continue in 2017-2018 as its members think strategically to accomplish some of the tasks in the next phases of the DEI initiative. Smaller working groups have been formed to mine the feedback during this feedback/data-gathering phase of the initiative.

BOOM! Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The MCCL hosted a listening booth and comment wall at the March 27th BOOM! Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. MCCL members were available throughout the day to talk with community members about their concerns and suggestions for improving campus climate. Copies of the 2013 Campus Climate Report and 2015 Inventory of Practice were also available for community members to review. Several MCCL members also presented at the BOOM! Conference. Along with students, Donna Van Handle, Leslie Ann Fraser, and Liza Lovozaya (Eliot House) offered the presentation: "Challenging Assumptions: International and Domestic Students at MHC. Finally, Mary Ramsay and the student group, "Disrupting Whiteness," hosted a session at BOOM! that helped its audience navigate the issue of white privilege.

Goals for 2017-2018

In April 2017, the MCCL elected Wes Yu and Mary Ramsay to serve as Co-Chairs for the 2017-2018 academic year. Goals for next year include working with Dean Hall to further clarify our role in the context of expanded emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion in relation to President Stephens's Strategic Plan. Related to that aim, the MCCL will mount a campaign to inform the community about our role and how we can serve community needs. This effort will include making major updates to the MCCL website and establishing other means of reaching the community (e.g., through Dean's Corner, the Dean of Faculty Newsletter, and social media). Lastly, the MCCL will address concerns related to recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and staff and hopes to collaborate with Human Resources to develop new mechanisms for supporting faculty and staff of color.