

Multicultural Community and College Life Committee (MCCL) Annual Report to the Faculty 2017-2018

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

Committee Members 2017-2018

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
Latrina Denson	Assistant Dean of Students
Audrey Lee-St. John	Associate Professor of Computer Science
Anpa'o Locke	Class of '21
Sophia Marcellus	Class of '21
Katie McMenimen	Associate Professor of Chemistry
Guneet Moihdeen	Class of '21
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

The MCCL Committee typically meets every other week throughout the year. This year the committee met every other Wednesday in the fall semester, and every other Monday in the spring.

Accomplishments in 2017-2018

Hortense Parker Essay Contest

In early September, we read 17 essays submitted by students for the Hortense Parker Essay Contest. Alongside other judges across campus, we helped select a winner in anticipation of Hortense Parker Day.

BOOM! 2017 De-brief

We spent several meetings talking about information we gathered from our participation in last year's BOOM! Conference. In 2017, the committee formed a listening table to hear comments, frustrations, and aspirations from the campus community. This year, we took the information that we gathered and discussed possible ways to continue the work of listening. We brainstormed possible projects to help promote communication and facilitate continued listening.

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. Katie McMenimen and Donna Van Handle 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 15 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:

Project	Project Dates	Funded Amount
“Moving Beyond Pity and Inspiration: Disability as a Social Justice Issue.”	Oct 2	\$460
The Peony Pavillion	Oct 19	\$300
Lecture on Queer and Indigenous, specifically two-spirit, Health by Margaret Robinson, (Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University).	Oct 23	\$300
Movement for Justice in El Barrio Presentation and Q&A.	Nov 10	\$450
Noche Latina fundraiser hosted by La Unidad for people affected in Mexico and Puerto Rico by the natural disasters.	Nov 17	\$450
Multimedia lecture concert arab arts vs. stereotyping	Nov 28	\$200
Noche Latina	Mar 24	\$250
Five College Model UN Conference	Mar 23-25	\$415
DEAFinitions: A Deaf Studies Conference (Hampshire)	Mar 25-26	\$300
Health Law Workshop	Apr 3	\$200
Women of Color Trailblazers Leadership Conference	Apr 7	\$1,500
U.S. Policy on the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict During the Trump Administration	Apr 11	\$415
Stage production of a new African Opera, Irin Ajo (Odyssey of a Dream)	Apr 12-13	\$500
Marcondo Nuestra Huella: The Revolution Starts with the Self	Apr 13-15	\$800
Mending Masculinity Tour	Apr 14	\$416

In the 2018-2019 academic year, IIF funding deadlines are: September 15, November 15, and February 15.

Listening Circle: Students of Color Committee

The committee sought to play a more proactive role in addressing community concerns and improving campus climate. To that end, based on work we did for last year’s BOOM!

Conference, we strategized about starting a listening circle that would allow different campus groups to meet with the committee to discuss pressing topics on campus climate. This year, we met with the newly formed Students of Color Committee (SOCC) to hear about student experiences in the classroom, the dining halls, and residence halls.

Communicating, Listening, and Reporting Out

Over the year, we asked ourselves about various means to speak with the campus community, to hear from the community about DEI and climate, and to report out about issues, resources, and protocols at MHC. While BOOM! 2018 gave us the opportunity to attend workshops, lectures, mixers, and other events, it also compelled us to discuss spurring structural change. Topics and suggestions that came up during these discussions included current processes for bias-incident reporting; strategies for accountability in the classroom (for instance, adding an anonymized section on classroom climate to teaching evaluations); and community installation projects sponsored by the MCCL.

Goals for 2018-19

The MCCL has been through and anticipates fluctuations in committee membership. Just as the committee welcomes Jared Schwartzer, we will need to fill two staff vacancies, and make one temporary faculty appointment, which will help determine committee leadership. We look forward to working with MHC's new Chief Diversity Officer, Kijua Sanders-McMurtry, to whom we will turn for guidance about the committee's future tasks. Goals for next year include further clarifying our role in the context of expanded emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion in relation to President Stephens's Strategic Plan. The MCCL will continue to 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. The committee will also discuss our advisory role in helping align the College's DEI initiatives with its publicity materials. Finally, we hope to reach out to individual student, faculty, and staff groups to participate in listening circles next year.