

Multicultural Community and College Life Committee (MCCL) Annual Report to the Faculty 2018-2019

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

Please note that this website is currently under review and will be updated.

Committee Members 2018-2019

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 2018-2019 academic year:

Member	Affiliation
Sabine Afodanyi	Class of 2020
Yunxuan (Emma) Chen	Class of 2022
Dayishaa Daga	Class of 2022
Latrina Denson	Associate Dean of Students for Community and Inclusion
Paola Granados Jaramillo	Class of 2022
Margaret (Gretchen) Lay	Assistant Professor of Economics
Olabode (Bode) Omojola	Five College Professor of Music
Barbara Dalton Rotundo	Program & Lab Coordinator, Department of Computer Science
Jared Schwartzer	Assistant Professor of Psychology and Education, Program in Neuroscience and Behavior
Donna Van Handle	Senior Lecturer in German Studies (co-chair)
Nashalie Vazquez	Associate Director of Residential Life (co-chair)
Lori Widmer-Hinckley	Assistant Registrar

Meeting Schedule

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

Accomplishments in 2018-2019

Review of MCCL's Charge and Mission

The committee revisited and clarified MCCL's charge and mission, especially given the arrival of Kijua Sanders-McMurtry, MHC's new Vice President for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, in anticipation of redirecting and updating the MCCL charge to align with the Chief Diversity Officer's forthcoming changes. MCCL co-chairs met with Kijua and Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Marcella Hall in September to seek guidance about the committee's future tasks. We looked at the committee's charge as described in faculty legislation and also discussed how to improve MCCL's ability to elicit feedback from campus constituents concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Since faculty legislation is currently being updated, we discussed how to modify the committee's description to better reflect its focus.

Hortense Parker Essay Contest

In September, we read and evaluated 38 essays submitted by students for the *Hortense Parker Essay Contest*. Alongside other judges across campus, we helped select award recipients who were announced at the *Hortense Parker Day Ceremony* in October.

BOOM 2019

MCCL reached out to Kijua Sanders-McMurtry to offer the committee's service as she began to plan and organize BOOM 2019. Kijua asked committee members to facilitate the discussions at the tables where topically-focused "Diversity Action Plans" were developed.

Inclusiveness Initiatives Funding (IIF)

Three times a year, MCCL distributes Inclusive Initiatives Funds (IIF), which allow students, staff, and faculty to organize workshops, cultural events, conferences, lectures, and other projects which promote diversity and inclusion. Jared Schwartzer chaired the sub-committee and all MCCL members reviewed the proposal and made award decisions. From our budget of \$7,500.00, the committee awarded funds to 17 events and projects. Eight of these were faculty or staff-driven events, while the rest were organized by individual students or student organizations. IIF funds supported the following events:

Project Title	Project Dates	Funded Amount
<i>Classical Music of India</i> (concert)	Sept 24	\$500
<i>An Evening with Barbara Smith '69: A Life in Activism</i>	Nov 1	\$500
<i>See Me, Hear Me, Understand Me: Building Allies for Recovery</i> (lecture by Beck Gee Cohen)	Oct 24	\$500
<i>Cross-Culture & Cross-Gender: A Performance of Yue Opera Excerpts</i>	Oct 26	\$500
<i>Noche Latina: La Vida es Un Carnaval</i> (A celebration of Latinx culture sponsored by La Unidad)	Nov 16	\$500
<i>Birth Doula Workshop</i> (with focus on culturally appropriate healthcare)	Nov 10,11,16,-17	\$500
<i>Being Muslim: A Cultural History of Women of Color in American Islam</i> (lecture by Sylvia Chan-Malik of Rutgers University)	Dec 6	\$315
<i>DEAFinitions: A Deaf Studies Conference</i> (Hampshire)	Mar 30	\$500
<i>Voices: A Reading and Discussion of "Enticement: Stories of Tibet"</i>	Apr 26	\$600
<i>Framed</i> (interactive art installation focused on global movements, migrations, refugees, and diasporas)	Apr 10-17	\$600
<i>Women of Color Trailblazers Leadership Conference</i>	Apr 6	\$357.14
<i>Class visit by Arabic Scholar Dr. El-Ariss</i> (discussion of gender and modernity in the early 20th century Arab world)	Feb 13	\$357.14
<i>STEMPOC Celebration Party</i>	Mar 1	\$357.14
<i>Five College Model United Nations Conference 2019</i>	Apr 5-7	\$357.14
<i>Semana Latinx</i> (to rebuild and strengthen the MHC Latinx community)	Apr 15-20	\$357.14
<i>The Microaggressions Project at MHC</i>	Apr 9	\$357.14
<i>Visit to Campus by Taina Asili</i> (Puerto Rican artist /activist / documentary filmmaker)	Apr 20	\$357.14

The MCCL decided to add another deadline for IIF grant proposals to provide an additional opportunity to apply in the spring. In the 2019-2020 academic year, IIF proposal deadlines will be: October 18, December 6, February 21, and April 3. The committee also began working on a more transparent rubric for evaluation of IIF proposals.

Listening Sessions

MCCL spent a lot of time this year discussing how the committee could play a more proactive role in addressing community concerns and improving campus climate. We decided to build on the work of last year's committee and expand the concept of "Listening Circles," now called "Listening Sessions." Committee members felt we needed training to help us ask the right questions and listen most effectively. To that end, Carol Stewart graciously attended one of our meetings and provided us with reading materials. In a subsequent meeting MCCL developed a set of questions to pose during listening sessions. We also expanded listening sessions to include both group and individual sessions. MCCL began to reach out to groups in the spring semester for the group sessions. In addition, each committee member also blocked off times for individual listening sessions on a special Google calendar. This initiative was advertised in the Staff Council newsletter, Jon Western's faculty newsletter, Marcella Hall's weekly "Dean's Corner" email, and there was a poster distributed across campus. This year, there were two group listening sessions: on March 1st several MCCL members met with representatives from the cultural houses and SGA committees and on April 8th with the Frances Perkins Student Association. In addition, there were five individual meetings with committee members. Notes taken at these meetings were shared with the Chief Diversity Officer and with the Dean of Students.

Goals for 2019-2020

MCCL hopes to increase participation in the listening sessions. Early in the fall, we will invite specific campus groups to a group listening session and we will publicize the individual listening sessions vigorously in order to encourage individual student, faculty, and staff groups to make appointments with MCCL members. Also, MCCL will continue to update its web pages. In terms of membership on the committee: Ted Gilliland (economics) will start his term as a new committee member in the fall. This spring, Nashalie Vazquez will complete her term on MCCL and a new staff member will be appointed by Staff Council. The new chair of MCCL will be Jared Schwartzer.