

University Life Council

May 2nd, 2023 9am

Zoom

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Discuss cross-racial friendships among our students (Moriah)
- 3) Discuss planting of new trees and potential loss of biodiversity on our main campus
- 4) Next academic year's ULC members

Attendance

Ilka Kressner

Bridget Collins

Dolores Cimini

Kate Averett

Carly Galbraith

Clarence McNeill

Marie Rabideau

Moriah Hampton

Kenneth Levine

Ariel Zylberman

Sathvik Thandra

Meeting Minutes

1. I Kressner gave update on parking with follow up from J. Jones from parking. The website is currently being updated with follow up to discussion from previous meeting on 4.6
2. M Hampton raised the point about students conflicting feelings about forming bonds and relationships within cross racial groups.
 - a. Chairs reached out to CAPS and got the following response
 - i. "More cross-racial friendships can be formed by encouraging students of different races with similar interests to interact. Similar interests among students could be found through sending out surveys to random UAlbany students and the medium of these interactions could be clubs or workshops. One of my friends argued that forcing students to interact is inorganic and will not solve the root of the problem, but gathering students based on their similar interests will make bonding between the students smoother. UAlbany should

continue to embrace different cultures through events to motivate students to learn about each other.” CAPS

- b. C. McNeill: Follow up questions about some research from sociology department on residential student vs nonresidential students – and their sense of belonging and inclusion from a residential point of view
 - c. A Zylberman – Living Learning Communities example of students living learning together in diverse and cross-racial groups
 - d. Action item: I Kressner will reach out to Student Affairs and ODI on further data on this subject
3. Trees and lack of biodiversity on campus
- a. Plan to plant Ginkgo Trees (the unit in charge of it is Campus Planning; J Kersch)
 - i. Ginkgos are not as biodiverse as oak/maple/other trees that previously used to occupy campus
 - ii. Concerns about smell of Ginkgo as well
 - iii. B. Collins- on sustainability committee – expressed concern about project of trees that were cut down, agreed to put forth concern about lack of biodiversity in trees that are being selected to be added to campus.
 - 1. Lack of shade on campus and on main routes
 - 2. Action Item: I Kressner to follow up with Jason Kersch on any discussion or input of broader context of biodiversity
 - a. I Kressner and B Collins will reach out to Mary Ellen Malia from the Office of Sustainability
4. This is the final meeting of the semester.
- a. Next year L Schell expressed interest to remain chair/co-chair
 - b. I Kressner will chair of her department and wishes to remain regular member of ULC
 - c. Please follow up with Kressner and Schell if you wish to plan to continue to serve on ULC
 - i. Yes votes from present members for this meeting

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