UBUNTU Committee meeting
Wednesday, September 6 | 1:00 pm | Wellspring Room, Idaho Commons

MINUTES

Present:
Jan Johnson, English (chair)
Sarah VanGundy, Library
Lysa Salsbury, Women’s Center
Julia Keleher, LGBTQ Office
SJ Jung, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Carolyn Todd, Law Library
John Myers, Academic Support Programs
Ken Hart, Northern District Cooperative Extension

- Regular meeting time
  Those present agreed that the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm tentatively works as a regular meeting time for the committee.

- Minute taker
  It was agreed that committee members should take turns to take minutes for each of our meetings. Lysa volunteered for this task for the first meeting.

- Need designee for Admissions Committee
  Following Leathia Botello’s departure from the University of Idaho, the committee needs to appoint a designee to the Admissions Committee. Julia Keleher volunteered to serve in this capacity. Scheduled meetings for this committee are to be held monthly at the Office of Campus Visits at 1:30 pm on the following dates: 9/21/17, 10/12/17, 11/2/17, 12/7/17, and 1/4/18.

- Old Business
  1) Disability parking on campus
     SJ elaborated on a concern that a faculty member had brought last year to the committee, that Parking & Transportation Services were charging for University disability permits in addition to requiring parking passes for colored lots. The Director of PTS was invited to a committee meeting to clarify, and established that the issue was in fact due to a miscommunication with the faculty member in question.

     The discussion brought up the fact that there must be a quorum of 50% of voting members (5 members) in order for action to be pursued on any proposal developed by the committee.

     Lysa provided some history to the formation of Ubuntu (the merger of the Affirmative Action/Disability Affairs Committee with Juntura) and emphasized the importance of having the Director of Disability Support Services active on Ubuntu to provide a voice for
disability issues on the committee. Jan will reach out to the new DSS director, Amy Taylor, to invite her to the committee after she arrives on September 12.

2) **Ubuntu website updates**
Carolyn suggested adopting a process of compiling and listing on the Ubuntu website a series of links and information on campus and community resources for students from underserved populations. The concern is that information about services and programs for specific populations is currently scattered randomly throughout the University of Idaho website. Providing a list of links on the Ubuntu web page would provide a central location for students to find these resources. Carolyn, Lysa, Sarah, and Jan will begin to research and work on this initiative. Lysa volunteered to contact Student Financial Aid Services to see if we can secure a work-study position to provide us with a student dedicated to assisting with this and other committee tasks.

Jan mentioned she had reached out to Jesse Martinez, the Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, to offer assistance with any initiatives being proposed to address the recent rescission of the DACA program. Lysa informed the committee that there is a meeting planned for any interested parties to organize an informational forum on the topic on Thursday, September 7 at 4:30 pm on the fourth floor of the Idaho Commons.

3) **Health insurance for trans students**
Julia informed the committee that currently, the student and employee health insurance program run through SHIP does not cover costs related to transition, except for hormone monitoring, which causes financial hardship or lack of access for UI community members who wish to medically transition. Julia volunteered to research the level of need on our campus and the cost to the university to add a premium to SHIP policies that would support transition costs.

4) **MLK Art & Essay Contest**
The committee will retain oversight of the organization and judging of the University of Idaho’s MLK Art & Essay Contest. The committee agreed that the contest theme does not have to be tied to the theme that the Latah County Human Rights Task Force uses for their community art and essay contest (this year’s theme is the refugee crisis). Jan expressed an interest in developing the theme of “Resisting Hate” or “Truth and Reconciliation” in response to the nationwide surge in actions by white supremacy groups. Sarah suggested keeping the theme positive in tone; Lysa concurred. The committee agreed to develop suggestions for themes and related writing prompts and to bring suggestions to the next committee meeting.

• **New Business**

1) **Faculty-Staff Handbook updates**
Jan proposed a review of the Faculty-Staff Handbook (FSH) to identify and correct outdated or exclusionary language, and will talk to Erin James, the former chair of
Ubuntu, to see how we might proceed with this initiative.

- **Next meeting**
  Wednesday, October 4 at 1:00 pm, location TBA. Jan will send an agenda out prior to the meeting.