1.22.19 Meeting Notes

In attendance: Kaila, Christine, Amanda, Michael, Kathryn

Land acknowledgement: The University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.

- We watched/listened to a song by A Tribe Called Red: We Are The Halluci Nation
- We looked at information from the Duwamish Tribe’s website related to the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Point Elliott on 1/22 in 1855. We discussed our understanding of why the Duwamish are not recognized by the US government and why there is intertribal conflict around this request for acknowledgement with other local Tribes.

Opening practice

How do we refer to you? (Name, gender pronouns used, etc.)
What is your connection with the RC?
How are you arriving at today’s meeting? (How are you feeling? What’s on your mind?)

Context for this committee

- Committee acknowledges the fact that the work of race & equity isn’t only for staff to be thinking about, it’s something that parents, students, community members, alumni etc. are affected by, have experiences with, and should be part of this work that involves our larger community.
- ‘We’ not as RC Staff, ‘We’ as RC community.
- Field of gifted education has been working on equity for years, RC as part of that conversation, advocating for access to gifted education

For discussion

- RC updates
  - Summer program dates
  - How classroom/student climate has been addressed so far
    - TS interventions
      - group discussions
      - new format for tutorials (some group sessions added)
      - staff in classroom at lunch
      - social justice week planned
      - service learning will be more focused around one area for all students
    - RC staff conversations about how and what to address with students
  - Summer program also has problems
- Classroom agreements are a great start but need regular work to practice and keep updated
- Students have avoided the RC in the past because of harassment
- Students also have been reluctant to want more oversight by admin
- Need a message of “we don’t do this here”
- Could our welcome statement be put into action?
  - Each instructor could use this as a starting point in class
  - Is there a place in program applications to ask about and address classroom climate and culture and student’s understanding of and responsibility for it?
  - UC Berkeley grad school application diversity questions example: If you are a URM student, what has been your experience, if you are not, what have you witnessed and how have you responded?
- What do we do in house with curriculum?
- What has not been taught (beyond basic academics) and can we teach that?
- How does curriculum get designed for the RC?
- Can we ask for new/different ways for things to be taught?

- Addressing questions from RC Teams
  - Hiring practices: look at UW guidelines
    - What is the prompt for the diversity statement? Who is the statement intended for?
  - How to privilege low SES families in competitive applications process
    - Pre-registration option for FRL qualified families
    - Open registration later in the day/evening (7pm)
    - Make sure website is mobile phone friendly for registration
    - Have paper applications as an option – can these be translated?
    - Save a few seats in each class for FRL qualified families (YMCA does this)
    - Look at enrichment (phys of rollercoasters) vs advancement (math/sci) courses and how equitable enrollment is in each
    - Add more sections as needed instead of creating competition for limited spots
    - Open off campus locations – offer early registrations for local families
    - Rainier Valley Leadership Academy could be a potential satellite location for summer
    - Advertise with Rainier Scholar families that they will be considered for summer because of RS affiliation
• Possible collaboration with middle college at SU?
• Current parents don’t want to advertise our programs because of scarcity of seats – how can we change this dynamic

Closing

● Check out: how you feeling as we leave tonight?
● What work have you committed to doing before we met next?

Set next meeting date: 3/12/19 from 7-8:30 pm at the Robinson Center