

**Wayne State University**  
**Proceedings of the Student Affairs Committee**  
**February 17, 2016**

**Present:** Kristen Salem, Vicki Dallas Jeffrey Grynawski, Ellen Holmes, Avril Genene Holt, Barbara Jones, Jim Martin, Vicky Pardo, John Porcerelli, Michele Ronnick, Brad Roth, Naida Simon, Gail Stanford, Ricardo Villarosa

**Absent with Notice:** Jim Martin, Vicky Pardo, Aashna Sahi, David Strauss

**Guests:** Leonard Savala and Helena Yago

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm. The agenda was adopted and the Minutes January 27 were adopted as amended.

Today's presenter was Leo Savala, Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE). Currently the office is staffed by Leo and Helena Yago, the Administrative Assistant. They are working on a mission statement. The draft mission statement is "OSME is to work collaboratively with WSU departments, units, colleges and schools to cultivate diverse student leaders who thrive socially and academically". The draft vision statement contains six bullet points:

- To cultivate a safe and engaging environment where we value, honor, promote and celebrate the difference and similarities among all students who arrive at our office with multiple layers of identity.
- Promote and support academically and professionally students of diverse racial, ethnic, gender, LGBTQ, people with disabilities, international and veterans.
- Success is only achieved within OMSE when we work in collaboration with other departments, colleges and units to support, retain and graduate WSU students;
- We build relationships with diversity councils and organizations at WSU and the surrounding community to better serve the needs of our students;
- Facilitate the building of relationships with students, faculty, staff and alumni to mentor undergraduate and graduate WSU students.
- OMSE will strive to achieve continuous improvement in the services we provide.

At present there are six strategic objectives for OMSE:

- Infrastructure
- Cultivation of a campus climate that respects diversity and inclusion
- Increasing the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of first generation and under-served students at WSU
- Establishment of OMSE marketing and communication plan
- Establishing OMSE's funding through external resources external collaborations
- Research on Creating an Inclusive Campus

OMSE is currently in its temporary space at 331 Purdy Library. The plan is to move to their permanent space on the seventh floor of the Student Center Building once the renovations are completed. The target date for the relocation is August, 2016.

Beginning in August, 2015 OMSE has held activities, events and programming options. Several examples are gender neutral homecoming court, a campus Dialogue on Race. The purpose of this dialogue is to focus on what's been happening regarding race on college campuses across the US, particularly at the University of Missouri and Yale University, and a final examination de-stress event.

Leo shared with the committee his observations upon arriving at Wayne State. First and foremost, our students have a different (higher) level of need than at Michigan State from whence he came. We have more homeless students, many who are working two jobs, etc. We need to provide more money to students in need. He also shared ideas on programs he would like to develop. He would like to hold a Diversity Summit, create a resource directory and a mentoring program that would include both a peer mentor and a professional mentor.

Leo's contact information: Address: 331 Purdy; Email: leonard.savala@wayne.edu phone 313-577-0102.

Old Business: There was none

New Business: There was a discussion on the email sent out by the Office of the Provost on the formation of an African-American/Black employee group. On March 18, 2016, the Golf Team and its coach, Mike Horn, will offer free golf lessons at 11 am. They are being held on the Matthaei campus at the Multipurpose Indoor Facility (between the tennis courts and the baseball field). If you were not at the meeting, please let either Naida or Mike know that you will attend and if you are a right-handed or left-handed golfer. Clubs will be supplied.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at 1:30 pm in 3339 FAB.**