

IFC Minutes

March 4, 2010

Invocation and Devotional– Jerry Kane

Welcome – Sam Cluff

Introductions

-Unitarian Universalist group will be chartering and changing their name on campus to NMSU Us

Approve December and January Minutes – approved by unanimous vote

Attendance roll – Article 3E of the Constitution says that if a group is not present at four meetings over the course of the year then they can explain to the group at the January meeting

There was a discussion about the *Baha'i* group and *Aggies for Christ* for their lack of attendance. They have not been attending. *Sam will check who has been attending. They may be called to a meeting to explain why they have not been in attendance. It may be most appropriate to remind them of what the Constitution says in regards to attendance and membership.*

Check with Jan on who has paid dues as well.

Jim recommends that the Constitution be amended for a different meeting time (other than January) for the groups that have not been in attendance.

Invite other religious groups again to participate in the Interfaith Council.

Jeanne will send an e-mail to Valerie with the Baha'l group to let her know that they are on the Interfaith Council but must attend to retain rights of membership.

Brandon will let Aggies for Christ know about their attendance at IFC and their need to come and explain.

Sam proposes to amend the wording in Article 3E to the *first meeting of the calendar year* from 'January meeting'. The 2/3 vote will be necessary and will be voted on at the next IFC meeting in April (the 1st).

Attendance

Sam Cluff – LDS

Jill Grammar – Community of Christ

Jim Lehman – Holy Family

Jerry Kane – Hillel
Susan Waldo – NMSU
Sal Melendrez – Newman Center
David Richman – Friends
Jim Ficklin – LDS
Jeanne Lutz – Lutheran Campus Ministry
Maria Doria – MVCH
Pamela Angell – Mesilla Valley Community of Hope
Brandon Pelton – [Cru]
Sarah Heartsong – NMSUUs – Unitarian Universalist

Campus Activities Update – Susan Waldo

- The Round Up covered the Interfaith Dialogue on the front page
- Leader Award Applications are due tomorrow.* Let any students know who may apply that they need to do that ASAP.
- Raffles are going to be stopped through the Activities Office at NMSU.
- There was info in the handouts on renting a University Vehicle. Please read if this may apply to your group in the coming year.
- April is going to be crazy!! American Indian week, the Big Event at Dickersons on April 10th is going to be a meal packing event where 500 or so volunteers are needed to put together 100,000 meals.

Treasurers Report an estimate from Jeanne - \$647.

It's been moved and seconded to give \$100 to help with the Big Event. Sam will be notifying Jan of this.

GLBTQ will be given \$500.

Report on Interfaith Dialogue – Jeanne Lutz

- Overall it was a big success.
- Three people felt that they needed a more diversity of faith groups. The Buddhist group dropped out the Friday before (about a week out).
- 33 evaluations were submitted. The small groups were a highlight for participants. It was very helpful to learn about other faith perspectives. The presentations were well done.
- 32 people would like to have the dialogue again* and 1 person did not express their opinion. Overwhelmingly all participants would like to do this again.
- Possibly shorten the presentations a little. They each had 10 minutes this last time.
- If the IFC decides to do this once per semester than the individual groups could pitch in.
- We need to find out how people found out about the Dialogue (mainly to see if the money spent on the Round Up ads helped or not).
- The main area of improvement was to make the small groups a little better.
- We gave a round of applause to Jeanne for all her hard work (Jim as well).*

Pamela Angel – Mesilla Valley Community of Hope

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She is here to address the homeless in town. How can we handle this in the most helpful, compassionate way? What else do you do?

If there is a violation of the law (trespassing issue) because of where they're camping then we need to let them know they need to move. When it's really cold they will be more permissive. She gave us handouts with some info we could pass along to some of the homeless we interact with at our properties.

***Services offered:* Housing opportunities have been expanded through Federal grants. A transitional housing option has been started. They are working on getting the Veteran's transitional housing option made available.**

They've gotten 40 chronically homeless people off the streets in the last year.

Alcohol affects about 40% of the homeless population locally.

Emergency housing finances has dropped significantly from around \$72,000 to \$22,000 so that has pushed them in the direction of longer-term solutions.

St. Luke's can help non-insured homeless get treatments and medication.

Health Fair Saturday March 13 in Presiado Park.

Community Garden is being done where fresh, organic produce can be made available to them. Low Income Work Trade CSA- they work one hour a week and then get food in return for that. There are some other garden plot options available. *Maria Doria - mdoria999@gmail.com*

Work Day on last Saturday of every month from 9am-1pm – groups are welcome to come.

Sal shared that one of the best things that happened when students went to help with this was being able to interact with a few of the homeless people there. Is it possible to make that a normal thing?

Benediction – Jim Ficklin – Advisor to LDSSA