

## NMSU Interfaith Council

Oct 7, 2010

### Welcome and Announcements

In attendance: Sid Druen (Reformed Univ. Fellowship), Jim Lehman (Holy Family), Rabbi Jerry Kane (Hillel), Scott C. Bird (LDS church), Jill Grammar (Community of Christ), Sal Melendrez (Newmann Center) Bruce Vandevender (NMSU Campus Activities), Sarah Heartsong (Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry), Brandon Pelton (CRUU), David Hansen (Religious Society of Friends)

Opening Prayer: Scott Bird

### Approval of September 2010 Minutes-

Change noted that Brandon Pelton was in attendance at the meeting, but not in the minutes.

Comment- resources presented at the last meeting were very helpful and needed as an emergency was able to be handled well as a result of Rabbi Kane having the resources needed, helping him to assist a student very quickly.

Minutes moved and seconded that the minutes were approved by consensus.

### Muslim Student Association (MSA)-

MSA planned on coming to this meeting to petition for membership. There were some questionable items on their website, which were pointed out to Brandon. They are in the process of redesigning the website and deleting these links, which were put up by some former students. They were asked to come back next month to talk to us. In our discussion it was pointed out that more Muslim students are forming with the intention of dialogue. As a religious community we want to welcome the Muslim faith into our ranks.

This opened up a discussion on whether a student organization without an associating body representative (i.e. a religious minister or ministry coordinator) can join us- as a student. Reviewed the Constitution of the IFC and found that it doesn't say anything about whether the representative must be a religious professional, not a student. There must be an affiliation with a parent body, however. Our question to the MSA is whether they have an affiliation such as this, with the gist that such an affiliation helps to solidify their voice as a religious group in the wider community, such as what the IFC stands for. Brandon will talk to their representative after the meeting is over.

### Old Business

Student Interfaith Dialogue (SID)-

Sarah is willing to be the oversight person and Jeanne will play back-up and assist. The challenge is when the meetings will be. We will try for Sun evenings after 5p to coordinate meetings. Discussion surrounded when we can get this done. The timeline seems to work better if we have the SID mid-February. It was moved and passed by consensus that the students will plan when we will have the SID and if we will have a service project after the SID. Everyone will try to get at least one or up to 2 students on the planning. First planning session scheduled on 10/17/10 at UUCLC (2000 S. Solano) at 5pm.

Service Project- Jeanne also brought up an idea that if we can't get the SID to occur before the end of the year, perhaps we can get students together for another project, like cleaning up the community. Talked about service opportunities for us to come together to serve the community in some way. Candlelight vigil 12/21/10 will be held at El Caldito we might be able to assist with as well. Sal agreed to be a "point person" on pulling together a service project. We might have a service project as well a couple days after the SID to pull students together.

Empty Bowls Update- Empty Bowls sale will be today at on the mall and again on the 10/14/10 at St. Paul's.

#### **New Business**

Treasurer's Update: 2 checks outstanding from May, \$250 to Peace Village and \$50 to GLBT organization. \$311.41 is the balance with those checks clearing. Sarah will contact a Peace Village coordinator and will ask.

Campus Activities: Bruce talked about Up Close, Homecoming events 10/25-30, Blood Drive during UTEP/NMSU game and NMSU won how much blood was given at that time, at the blood drives the campus groups can help and put out an info table if they want.

#### **IFC Member Updates:**

NAACP coming to the Friends to do a dinner and lunch on 10/30/10 and has tickets available.

Pagan Pride Day coming up 10/23/10 in Young Park from 10-5 and it is an interfaith event celebrating diversity of nature-based/pagan groups

Newman Center may end up with a name change because Cardinal Newman might become sainted, so the Newman center might become "St. Newman Center"

"I Empathize"- CRUU will bring in speakers to address the modern sex slave trade to create an experience to raise money to help to put an end to these atrocities. (11/1/10-11/4/10) This will happen in the ballrooms at Corbett Center.

**Mujer a Mujer fund raiser- NMSUU student who is a return Peace Corp volunteer is having a fundraiser at Peace Lutheran at 6pm on 10/16/10.**

**Meeting adjourned at 09:40.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sarah Heartsong, Secretary**