

Coalition for a Respectful U – NOTES from Meeting on September 11, 2009

Purpose: We are a group designed for social justice allies and advocates across colleges, departments, positions, and identities committed to a safe and inclusive campus climate for all students and employees. Meetings are used for the sharing of campus climate information and initiatives, providing support and networking to those committed to social justice, and to increase collaboration between University entities.

Is there anything left to say about 9/11? September 11, 9:59 AM - Populist Examiner - Bruce Maiman. Part of the problem with remembrances is that people are unsure what is expected of them. We wonder, "How sad am I supposed to feel? What do you expect me to do, because possibly I've gotten over it? How do we commemorate other people's grief? It's a generic question we haven't answered that goes beyond 9/11. Commemoration aims to simplify, but life as it's lived and feelings as they're felt are never simple. So what is there to talk about? What is our obligation at this point? Has it changed in the last eight years? What is our obligation as Americans, as people of good will? What is our obligation to today's anniversary? What should we do?

Individuals shared meaningful and insightful experiences about the first time they became aware of bias.

Representatives from Minnesota International Student Association (MISA), Asian Student Union (ASU) / Hmong Minnesota Student Association (HMSA), Black Student Union (BSU) / Black Motivated Women (BMW) discussed upcoming events planned for their groups, their mission and theme for the academic year, and their experiences on campus. Students shared a few of the barriers that they experience in accessing resources, including, international students accents limit their speaking out and lack of support when they do report concerns directly to their college administrators.

We discussed alternative resources available at the University. We also discussed ways to achieve greater awareness/publicity of resources available at the University.

We will expand on the discussion at our next meeting and have three additional student group presentations.

Both ASU and BSU have active listserves. Please check their websites at the U for further information about dates for current events.

Representatives from Admissions were also present and described their role in supporting students.

Next meeting: October 2, 323 Coffman ---bring your lunch 12-1:30