

Tilford Group Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Overman Student Center, Kansas 3

Attendance

Susan Carlson
Stacie Finley
Emily Flores
Tatiana Goris
Kristen Humphrey
Ananda Jayawardhana
Cebrail Karayigit
Jorge León
Mary Mercer
Dory Quinn
Jason Reid
Deatrea Rose

Treasurer's Report

Jorge León stated that there was \$1300 in the budget to use for Spring 2020. He said that we are still waiting for the new Vice President to reimburse faculty for the driving and hotel expenses for the Tilford Conference in October 2019. Ananda Jayawardhana said that he had not yet submitted his travel expenses for the Tilford Conference. Jorge said there were no other changes to the Treasurer's Report.

Tilford Read Group Update

Emily Flores discussed the Tilford Read Group Project, where students had been given a copy of the book *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nahisi Coates. The students were given the book in the Summer of 2019, and were asked to do a year-long project of their own choosing on some aspect of the book. They were also asked to record their discussions of the book and the author and discuss how topics in the book applied to their own lives. They were invited to present their five-minute videos at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ball in January 2020.

There was a group discussion on how to expand the Tilford Read Group to members of the larger campus community. Someone suggested putting the students' five-minute videos on PSU social media. Kristen Humphrey said that she has assigned *Between the World and Me* for some of her classes, and suggested putting some suggested discussion boards over the book in the Tilford Canvas site, and encouraging other faculty to use the book in their classes as well. Ananda Jayawardhana suggested that we create a faculty reading group to read and discuss the book in 2020. There was another suggestion that students currently in the Tilford Read Group could present their research to specific classrooms. Deatrea Rose

suggested that we start with a small pilot project to test some of these ideas and then expand the project once we have the preliminary results.

Emily also suggested that we use the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ball (scheduled for February 1st) to advertise the Tilford Read Project for students who might want to join the next year's group of readers.

Tilford Diversity Award

Deatrea Rose reported from the Diversity Award subcommittee. She said that Tilford was ready to start the nominating process for the Diversity Award in January 2020. Faculty could be nominated by someone else or could nominate themselves. The award was designed for faculty who had worked at PSU at least two years and no more than five years. The award is designed to encourage new PSU faculty to focus on diversity. The first Tilford Diversity Awards would be awarded at the Tilford Banquet in April 2020.

Brown Bag Lunches and Discussion of Future Speakers

Deatrea Rose suggested that we focus on brown bag lunches for information sessions to help faculty and students learn more about issues of diversity. She said that these lunches had been very popular in the past. The group suggested the following ideas for possible topics and speakers. (These topics could be used for brown bag lunches or for more formal presentations.)

- Joey Pogue, from the Communication Department, could speak on the breakdown in communication, and various communication styles. (Deatrea said that this presentation by Joey in the past had been well-attended and popular.)
- Deatrea Rose suggested that we could invite Angel Tucker, who discussed racism against African-Americans in the KC Plaza. Ms. Tucker's speech was part of Race Project KC, sponsored by the Johnson County Library. Deatrea said she had seen the presentation and was very impressed.
- Other suggestions were a speaker on Black Wall Street. Stacie Finley suggested that we invite a speaker to discuss lynching from the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, which is located in Montgomery, Alabama. (Talks from long-distance speakers could be held via Skype.)
- Tatiana Goris suggested that we invite Father Moses Berry to discuss the rights of African-Americans.
- Susan Carlson suggested that we could include a speaker from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) to discuss the employment rights of students with mental illness. The speaker would focus advocacy options for these students, especially after they graduate and seek full-time employment. She also suggested that we offer a session on the scholarships designed especially for students who deal with mental illness. (This session could also be expanded to include students from other diversity groups.)

- Mary Mercer suggested that we invite the organization Send Silence Packing, which uses backpacks to visually present the number of suicides of young people, ages 16-24. The organization lectures and provides information on suicide prevention. Mary also suggested that we work with the PSU student group To Write Love on Her Arms, which is the advocacy group for PSU students with mental illness. Neil Hilborn, a slam poet who writes about his own mental illness, was also suggested as a speaker.

The Tilford Meeting ended at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19th.