

Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Minutes – Friday, March 20, 2015
University of Virginia - Newcomb Hall Gallery
180 McCormick Road
Charlottesville, VA 22904

1:34 PM Michel calls meeting to order

Christian West of UVA welcomes us; discussed various programs for Latino outreach.

Currently, 15 DACA students on grounds.

What are the graduation rates for Latinos?

4-year graduation rate is 84%; about the same as overall graduation rate.

6-year is about 96%; about the same as overall graduation rate

34% of the student body is benefitting from AccessUVA

All members and guests introduce themselves

Ryan says that data shows that young Latinos are interested in starting businesses.

1:55 Quorum met!

Statute read.

Minutes from previous meeting are approved.

Anna discusses the draft policy governing electronic participation in VLAB

Motion passed to approve electronic participation. It will take effect at the adjournment of this meeting.

2:17

Subcommittee presentations:

Education – Gloria starts presentation; had an opportunity to look at the community; spent morning speaking with a lot of students; issues of access and exposure; there are resources and people just don't know about them; Aida says it was heartwarming; about twenty students in total in various settings. Very high GPAs among these students they spoke with. Alternatives to 4-year education for students. Information exists; but it must be compiled, interpreted; etc. Right now, this information exists in pockets.

Lawrence Wilder of C&T speaks to the topic of outreach.

Healthcare – Mike starts presentation; status sheet provided;
Carolina: Do we have a number of Latinos who signed up?

Michel: No.

Business subcommittee: Lucero presents the subcommittee's report; they have compiled data and are in the process of interpreting the data to make recommendations; iMoreno group presentation discussed;

Civic Engagement – Carolina Espinal presents; subcommittee has been unable to meet; wants to include hate crimes in the subcommittee's portfolio; no culture of voting among youth. Various focus areas are discussed. Leadership development.

3:15-3:25 Break

3:25

Guest speaker Phil, of Legal Aid Justice Center, speaks on issues in Richmond related to mobile home evictions; all mobile home parks are in the Southside part of Richmond; all owned by resident, and rent the lot from the landlord; old and poorly managed park; the residents are very easy to exploit.

City of Richmond has decided to target the mobile home parks for enforcing the city code. In order to comply, most of the families had to hire structural engineers, electrical engineers, replace heating systems, etc., etc., etc. City did not make plans to address the needs of the people displaced by this; inadequate language services; etc. The City is now targeting a different mobile home park that is 90% Latino.

3:38

Elections

Michel thanks Vice-Chair Kris; Liaison Diana for help; Legal Counsel Anna; and all the members for their commitment.

Diana reviews voting process; Michel proposes a few additional protocols: 2 minutes for each candidate to address the Board; raise of hands to record vote; nominations do not need to be in person.

Elections are held. Eleven voting members are present.

Election tallies:

Chair:

Estuardo (6)

Mike Martinez (2)

Abstentions (3)

Vice-Chair:

Aida (9)

Abstentions (2)

Secretary

Zuraya (10)

Abstentions (1)

Election results:
Chair: Estuardo
Vice-Chair: Aida
Secretary: Zuraya

All members and guests provide announcements and updates.

April 15, 2015 community workshop in Richmond on how to “get in the door” in state government; Latinos are 8% of the population, but less than 2% of employees in state government.

VHCC setting up business center.