The Diversity and Inclusion Committee: Year End report, 2017-18

Committee: Michael Brown, Daniel Castro (undergrad), Kian Flynn, Lawrence Knopp, Will McKeithen, Emma Slager

2017-18 Overview:
This year the diversity committee put into practice a broader, more inclusive form of committee governance, namely by involving an undergraduate representative (Daniel) and a staff member (Kian). The committee had regular meetings to share ideas and discuss themes. Our main focus was disability allyship and had planned an event with a facilitated discussion of departmental transitions.

Events:

Winter Quarter:
The committee began talks with a freelance facilitator about a possible department-wide discussion of various diversity and inclusion issues, but for a variety of reasons this did not materialize. The facilitator was compensated for their time and the 2017/18 committee suggest this could be picked up by future committees.

Spring Quarter:
The UW D-Center (Lesley Ellis)
Title: Disability Allyship and Inclusive Pedagogy Event
Date: Friday, May 25th at 3:30PM - 5:00PM in the UW D-Center

Agenda: The D Center collaborating with the Department of Geography’s Diversity Committee to hold a Disability Allyship workshop on learning how to support UW’s disability communities (rooms were mobility aid accessible and CART captioning and ASL interpreters were available; participants were asked to refrain from wearing scents.). The event was facilitated by D Center Advisor Lesley Ellis, with significant organizing help from Michael Brown.

Lesley led a discussion on the basics of disability justice (i.e., the social model of disability, ableism, etc.), discussed basic services at UW for assisting disabled students, and then led us in a Q&A session working through possible teaching scenarios and general questions from the audience
Additional Resources:

1. UW’s DO-It Center (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking and Technology) focusses on empowering people with disabilities through technology and education. We fund the materials on “Universal Design” especially helpful:
   - https://www.washington.edu/doit/resources/popular-resource-collections/applications-universal-design

2. Disability Justice and the “No Body is Disposable” Series (Barnard Center for Research on Women in collaboration with Sins Invalid, Patty Berne, Hope Dector, Stacey Milbern and Dean Spade)
   - https://www.deanspade.net/2017/05/10/my-latest-collaboration-on-disability-justice-no-body-is-disposable/
   - http://sinsinvalid.org/