

## **MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Centennial Room, Student Union**

**November 30, 6:30 pm**

I. Approval of 11/09/16 Minutes

- Approved

II. New Business

**A. BILL 2017-75 - A BILL TO FUND THE FRIENDS OF PAKISTAN**

- General funding bill
- Passed with no opposition

**B. BILL 2017-80 - A BILL TO FUND KU ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT UNION'S  
TASTE OF ASIA**

- This is a month long event, but one night they will have a special event in a venue with food, decorations, and professional lion dancers
- Passed with no opposition

**C. BILL 2017-83 - A BILL TO FUND FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES GRADUATE  
SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DR. LAURA MARKS**

- 20th annual Honorarium, funding would cover travel and lodging for the speaker. It would be very well advertised with a Facebook event, teachers telling their students, and posters.
- Passed with no opposition

**D. BILL 2017-85 - A BILL TO FUND THE ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY  
BIOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

- Organization that does a lot of science outreach. They are partnered with Girl Scouts, as well as other elementary schools to do outreach events with them. They need general funding for this, like printing field guides
- Passed with no opposition

**E. BILL 2017-311 - A BILL TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION  
OF THE DACA**

- **This program allows for individuals who were brought into this country illegally to apply for a two year work visa while getting an education. They can apply for a continuations of this visa while working, This provides access to education and social security number**
- **This is important because illegal immigrants don't have a social security number, therefore they cannot fill out FASFA. If they are apart of this program, they can apply to the university and get university financial aid**
- **This bill calls on the president-elect not resend the executive order until it's been challenged. If Student Senate were to pass this resolution, it says that Student Senate is committed to this issue and want them to be here. Our job is to represent students so by passing this we send a message that they are a value and belong here.**
- **Question: Does KU have anything similar to this? Yes we do. If Senate puts its weight along with the Chancellor, there's an opportunity to lead the nation and if this passes we're going to send it to other universities, which could make a real difference if congress sees it**
- **Passed without opposition**

#### **F. Bill 2017-089 - A BILL TO FUND KU WILLOW BRANCH**

- **Bill is to fund speaker Karen Country who is the Executive Director for the Center of Combatting Trafficking at Wichita State University**
- **Passed with no opposition**

### **III. Committee Discussion**

#### **A. Dot Nery- Able Hawks**

- **Advisor for Able Hawks and Allies, which started in 2005 and had lots of participation from students and different groups. Their goal is to educate the campus community about disability as a diversity issue because when one person is oppressed, everyone else is oppressed. Undocumented students, students of color, gay, lesbian, and other issues that**

crosses all other groups on campus also crosses disabled people. We all benefit when we can learn from people who have all different abilities

- They do awareness events, such as an accessible dance event years ago. They are the reason for KU on Wheels, lifts on busses, and a ramp in Strong Hall. Before this, students had to go around the back of the Strong Hall where there was glass, construction materials, and cigarettes butts on the ground. There are real leaders in this organization that have gone on to become lawyers, social workers, and advocates.
- They have a poster from DREAM, which is a national disability group. The poster encourages that if it isn't accessible to everyone, you can't have an event. If there isn't enough money to have interpreters, the event shouldn't happen. There's been situations at KU where blind people didn't get their textbooks until the semester was half way over, but that doesn't happen anymore. It's called segregation to have students with disabilities sit in different classrooms.
- Catherine Johnson promotes signage for the hawk route. which is something that allows students with disabilities to get around campus. It's easy to do, but students were having a hard time finding the route. Now there is a video online on Hawk Route that shows students how to get around, with exact directions. Hawk route is planning on creating an interactive map that includes all of the accessible buildings and gender inclusive restrooms. They are working on it right now. It is currently just a pdf and the Hawk Route video can also be download as an mp3 file.
- One thing we see a lot are people who use Facebook that have visual impairment. If you produce materials on Facebook that are pictures, include a written description. That can be vital. There are small things that everyone can do to be more inclusive.
- Question: What offices can we go to to report a sidewalk that's not accessible from the street? There's a brochure and email Catherine Johnson, especially when it gets cold out or if the sidewalk gets icy it can be dangerous. Sometimes there is a trashcan in bathroom that gets left in front of the towels, making the towels hard to reach. If we are all more aware it, things will change.

- This is a time for a lot of us to understand accessibility on and off campus and do what we can to make sure MA is supporting students with different needs, from engaging in legislation or awareness. Able Hawks in the way of starting up again. There are a ton of people who are doing awesome work and love to go to their meetings.
- Timely Issues? Lifestream video on Facebook page of diversity panel earlier

#### IV. Officer Reports

##### A. Chair - Zoya Khan

- Last committee meeting so keep thinking of certain issues you'd like to be discussed or speakers you'd like to bring in.
- The Religious minority Ad Hawk Community is going to meet another two times before the semester ends and are on track to have a survey finalized by the time that we go on break. They are currently working with different offices
- Event at Haskell Listening Post with Tom Marcus 4:30- 6:30 in Navar Hall and he will be doing individual meetings. Colors of KU application is now open on the OMA website. The applications close December 9th.
- It's a difficult time for communities on campus. There are different events popping up on campus and make sure your being cognizant of different identities on campus and to hold yourself accountable for your actions.
- Have a good Break!

##### B. Vice Chair/Associate Senator - Daniel Lee

- Have a good break, thanks for letting me be the vice chair

##### C. Secretary - Jessica Guardiola

- Will send out an email with events happening on campus.

##### D. Director of Diversity and Inclusion - Abdoulie Njai

- Summer venture application up online. There have been meetings with people for ways to work together and currently planning weekly lunches at Watson library as an opportunity for different multicultural groups come together. It's called unity and community.

- CLAS planning town hall meeting for second semester, focusing on the election, Make America Great Again? The Able Hawks meeting was neat and the take away was looking at something for better accommodations for those students.
- Next Thursday will be a presentation with faculty, staff, student senate, and executive staff for undocumented students. The executive staff will give a brief presentation about that.

#### E. Advisor - Saida Bonifield

- The Emily Taylor Center is having a conversation about the election and gender, from 12-1 pm tomorrow in the mall room
- Religious accommodation policy for students and then hoping to expand to staff and faculty. It's a two-fold outline process to create some sort of forum on blackboard to submit to teachers and professors.
- AIDS and Activism event at Spencer Museum of Art 5-7 pm tomorrow and there's a Standing Rock Teach in 5-6 pm in Watson Library. Currently planning events for MLK with athletics school district and CCO folks in community and in campus.

#### V. Announcements

- Philanthropy for Trevor project, which is the LGBTQ suicide prevention hotline. We are tabling on Wescoe Tuesday and Thursday
- Zoya: Any topics you'd like to discuss or people you'd like to come talk to, just shoot me an email or text
- Connor- Us not reaching Quorum is sad and we need to focus on bringing people who are interested and let them know it's a welcoming space

#### VI. Adjournment