

DEIAA Committee

MINUTES for: Thursday, February 19, 2026

12:30-2:00pm

Zoom

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| Members Present: | Esteban Ismael Alvarado, Dr. Kelly Metz-Matthews, Stacy Surwilo, Megan Leppert, Anjali Patel, Dr. Marne Foster |
| Members not Present: | Dr. Franklin Garrett, Dr. Masahiro Omae, Dr. Shakerra Carter |
| Guests: | Dr. L. Carulli, Carla Grossini-Concha, Lee Blackmore, Damella Abbott, Stevan Dupus, Jesus Rivas, Dulce Carolina Arroyo, Fatima Mota, Neill Kovrig, Carol Basilio, Minoo Pakgohar, Janet Foster |
| Recorder: | Prepared by: Anthony Ganio |

AGENDA

1. Call to Order - 12:30 pm Meeting called to order by Chair Esteban Ismael Alvarado. Chair welcomed attendees to the February DEIAA Committee meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves for recording purposes, including name, pronouns, role/department, and naming something they would love to see right now. Introductions were shared verbally by members and guests.
Chair noted that Kelly Metz-Matthews had already shared her introduction in the chat. Lee Blackmore and Janet Foster were also noted as present for recording purposes, with Janet initially driving and Lee participating while managing class activities.

2. Review Agenda, Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of Agenda

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| DISCUSSION | Chair noted that quorum was not met. |
| CONCLUSION | No action taken on agenda approval due to lack of quorum. |

2.2 Approval of January 2026, Meeting Minutes

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| DISCUSSION | Chair stated that because quorum was not met, the Committee would not be able to approve the January minutes at this meeting. |
| CONCLUSION | January 2026 minutes were not approved and will return for action at a future meeting. |

2.3 Approval of November 2025, Meeting Minutes

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| DISCUSSION | Chair shared November minutes for review and requested corrections. Corrections noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan Leppert added/confirmed as present for part of the meeting Stevan’s last name spelling corrected to “Dupus” Motion: Megan Leppert Second: Dr. Kelly Metz-Matthews |
| CONCLUSION | November 2025 minutes approved with noted corrections. |

3. Information/Discussion Item(s)

3.1 Tim Wise Community Conversation – February Session

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| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair reminded attendees that the Tim Wise Community Conversation would take place that same day from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Food would be served beginning at 2:30 PM. Attendees were encouraged to attend even if they had not registered in advance. Chair noted that Flex information had been distributed by Carla Grossini-Concha and was also included on the flyer and registration materials. |
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3.2 DEIAA Diversity Book Club – Spring 2026

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| INFORMATION | <p>Chair announced the launch of the Diversity Book Club beginning February 26, 2026. The Book Club will center on Loretta Ross’s <i>Calling In</i> and will include three meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 26, 2026 – in person • March 18, 2026 – via Zoom • May 21, 2026 – in person at ECC <p>Chair encouraged Committee members to promote the Book Club across their campuses and programs. Carla Grossini-Concha shared that 23 participants had already registered, leaving 17 remaining spots for free hard copies of the book for the first 40 registrants. Chair also noted that eBook and audiobook versions are available through the San Diego Public Library with an active library card.</p> <p>Carla clarified the meeting times as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 26: 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM at Chavez • March 18: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM via Zoom • May 21: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM at ECC <p>Chair noted that participants who attend all three meetings will receive a total of 10 Flex hours. Those attending fewer meetings will receive Flex credit only for the time attended.</p> |
| 3.3 ICE Protocol Q&A Follow-Up Session | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair shared information about a follow-up ICE Protocol Q&A session connected to Spring Institution Day. The session will take place Tuesday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Mid-City Campus, with District General Counsel present to continue the conversation. Chair noted that the deadline to submit questions in advance had already passed. |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Basilio shared that she had been working with Eric Miller to explore whether a HyFlex option might be possible for those unable to attend in person, pending additional approval. Chair acknowledged the value of that suggestion and noted that a virtual or HyFlex option could be especially beneficial in the future for adjunct faculty and others unable to attend in person. |
| 3.4 Loretta Ross at SDCCE – March 18, 2026 | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair promoted the upcoming visit from Loretta Ross, author of <i>Calling In</i>, scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM at Cesar Chavez Campus in the Multipurpose Room. Chair highlighted Ross’s significance as a speaker and noted having heard her speak at multiple conferences over the years. • Chair also acknowledged district-level support, including Jhelen Ramirez, in helping bring Loretta Ross to SDCCE, and emphasized that CE would be the only college in the district hosting her. |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anjali Patel asked whether students would be able to attend. Carla Grossini-Concha responded that the event is being shared districtwide and priority would first be given to employees, but students may be invited if space allows. She noted that additional information would be shared closer to the event date. |
| 3.5 Black History Month Book List | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair shared that the Cultural Events Task Force had been working to revive and update a Black History Month book list originally developed several years earlier by then-Acting Dean Tavares Franklin. Chair noted that suggestions had been gathered from both the DEIAA Committee and the Cultural Events Task Force, with some titles being saved for a future 2027 list. • Chair stated that the finalized Black History Month book list would be distributed to the college community at the end of the month. The goal is to reinforce that Black history should be engaged year-round and not only during February. |

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| 3.6 Women’s History Month Book List – Request for Contributions | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair requested support from Committee members in developing a Women’s History Month book list. A shared document link was provided in the chat, and Chair explained the categories being developed, including books for liberation, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Chair encouraged members to add recommendations directly to the document or send suggestions by email, emphasizing that submissions need not mirror Chair’s own literary preferences and that a broad range of voices and titles was welcome. |
| 3.7 Irish American Heritage Month Book List – Request for Contributions | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair also requested support in building an Irish American Heritage Month book list. Chair shared that while some familiarity with Irish American literature exists, additional community input would be helpful, especially to ensure a broader representation of Irish and Irish American literary voices. Members were encouraged to contribute suggestions by email, chat, or directly in the shared document. |
| 3.8 Future Cultural Heritage Month Book Lists | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair stated that similar book lists are planned for additional heritage observances, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab American Heritage Month Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Jewish American Heritage Month Chair noted that collaboration from Committee members and the broader community would be welcome in developing these resources. |
| 4. Additional Information Items | |
| 4.1 Cultural Events Task Force Update | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair provided a brief update on recent Cultural Events Task Force programming, including the signature Black History Month event held the previous Thursday and a Lunar New Year event held at Mid-City Campus earlier in the week. Chair noted strong attendance, successful catering, and support from multiple campus partners. Chair invited anyone interested in helping with future cultural programming, logistics, or heritage month planning to reach out. |
| 4.2 California Community Colleges LGBTQIA+ Summit | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair shared a save-the-date announcement for the California Community Colleges LGBTQIA2S+ Summit, scheduled for April 15–16, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Chair noted that the proposal submission window had already closed and that additional schedule information would be shared when available. |
| 4.3 District Queer Alliance (DQA) | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair noted that information about the District Queer Alliance had been included on the agenda and encouraged additional participation, emphasizing that the group could benefit from more voices and broader support. |
| 5. Review / Roundtable | |
| 5.1 Next Tim Wise Community Conversation | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair shared that the next Tim Wise Community Conversation would take place on Friday, March 13, 2026, likely around 10:00 AM. Final campus location was still being determined and would be shared with the Committee once confirmed. |
| 5.2 Summer Teaching Institute (TSI) – Call for Presenters | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Metz-Matthews shared that a campuswide call for presenters and co-facilitators had recently gone out for the Summer Teaching Institute. She noted that this year’s theme focuses on |

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| | internationalizing curriculum and student experiences, and encouraged DEIAA members to consider applying or recommending colleagues doing relevant work. |
| 5.3 Healthy Relationships Event | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. L. Carulli shared information about an upcoming event on healthy relationships, sponsored by Be Well and LGBTQIA+ programming, scheduled for Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at West City, Room 124B. The event is open to all and lunch will be provided. Chair invited Dr. Carulli to send the flyer so it could be linked in future materials. |
| 5.4 Strategies for Successful Communication with English Language Learners | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carla Grossini-Concha highlighted Carol Basilio's upcoming session, <i>Strategies for Successful Communication with English Language Learners</i>, describing it as an impactful and valuable training for employees across roles, not only ESL faculty and staff. |
| 5.5 Uprise Theater – Know Your Rights Performance-Based Training | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carla Grossini-Concha shared that, in response to feedback from ESL instructors and others, planning was underway to bring Uprise Theater to campus for a performance-based, scenario-driven training related to interacting with ICE. The event would move beyond informational materials and focus on practicing real-life responses in difficult situations, including possible encounters outside classroom spaces and campus boundaries. Carla noted that the event would likely be held in the evening at Chavez to accommodate participants, including adjunct faculty. Chair emphasized the value of practical rehearsal and community preparation, and thanked Amanda Simons for helping establish the connection. |
| 5.6 Faculty/Staff Share-Out | |
| DISCUSSION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stevan Dupus shared that one of his paintings would be featured in the "Human Body Group Show" at a gallery in La Jolla beginning March 13, 2026, for approximately one month. Chair congratulated him and invited him to share the flyer once available. |
| 6. Literature Review / Closing Reflection | |
| INFORMATION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair noted that the agenda included a literature review tied to the Black History Month book list and highlighted excerpts from bell hooks' essay <i>Love as the Practice of Freedom</i>. Chair read and reflected on passages addressing domination, love, community, freedom, and resilience. Chair emphasized the importance of sustaining joy, love, and community in the face of violence and adversity, and encouraged attendees to read and share the essay with others. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned early following completion of the agenda and roundtable. | |
| NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 12:30 PM Zoom | |

Minutes Submitted By: Anthony Ganio

Minutes Approved: Approved (3/19/26)