

Cultural and Intellectual Community Council Minutes

October 2, 2019

Prepared by Dionne L. Hallback

Present: Tabitha Dell'Angelo, Paula Rainey, Dionne Hallback, Suan Ryan, Lisa Ortiz and Judith Kardos

Absent: Dara Whalen, Sabrina Mazzara, Casey Shaulfer,

- September 18, 2019 minutes were approved.
- 2020 Community Learning Day Date is Wednesday, September 2, 2020
- 2020 Summer Reading Book
 - **The goal is to decide on a book by the end of October 2019**
 - Since we are limited with time we will select the book first and then discuss possible themes for Community Learning Day
- Book options feedback
 - Eliminate the books **Unknown American**, and **Behold the Dreamer** since the storylines is similarly to a past themes.
 - **Unknown America**
 - Similar to a book on a Latin american family; American dream was similar to a book used for a prior summer reading;
 - **Behold the Dreamer**
- Prospective Summer Reading Book Options
 - **Book - There There (Tommy Orange)**
 - Extends itself to various ways of thinking; well written
 - Deals with a lot of issues for various discussions and programming
 - indigenous cultures
 - We watched a YouTube of the author speaking; calm; not as engaging but maybe this is his personality; this does not mean that he would not be a good speaker
 - Topics: culture, privilege, intersectionality
 - **Book - Dear America (Jose Antonio Vargas)**
 - Tabitha shared that Vargas will be very expensive

- Interesting memoir; good documentary about him revealing his status
 - Thoughtful and intellectual approach and good socializing for students into an intellectual community
 - We watched a YouTube (Steven Colbert) and the author was personable; informative; engaging
 - Next year is an election year; picking a book with substance
- **Book - Sweat (play) (Lynn Nottage)**
 - Intersectionality - working class; lives take different trajectories due to their identities; race in western PA
 - American Factory a film about a closing of a factory - could be an option to bring to campus
 - Took some committee members the longest to read but once they began reading, it was a good read
 - Is there an excerpt with a prompt that can be sent to the campus community or Discussion leaders if this book is selected?
- Other discussion points:
 - Tabitha suggested that she can call the top three books to find out if the authors are available on our date; this will help us rather than selecting book and then find out the author is booked.
 - Tabitha will check for reviews about authors speaking engagements
 - Kit Murphy, Associate Provost, Liberal Learning, would like the committee to consider for future per Kit
 - What are our learning objectives for summer reading program?
 - Schedule the summer reading to Welcome Week? Is this feasible considering we will not have faculty to help facilitate the program

Next Meeting: October 16, 2019 in Social Science Room 325 1:30 to 2:50 pm