

DC Meeting Minutes 2/10/2017

Facilitator: Andrea Baeza

Location: WGST cottage

- Meeting begins and warm up
 - Opener activity: go around stating name, gender pronouns, and favorite warm weather activity
 - Assign Roles
 - Time Keeper: Elana
 - Vibes Watcher: Naomi
 - Note Taker: Casey
- Anti-Oppression Community Conversation: Ideological Diversity in the INVST Classroom

National Association of Scholars (NAS) report

LINK to the report: https://www.nas.org/projects/making_citizens_report (read intro and then INVST case study)

- INVST was scrutinized & criticized in a recent report written by conservative political advocacy organization NAS. We have already talked with CU Engage staff, INVST founders, FAB, and we wanted to share here about what has happened and how INVST has addressed it
- In the report, they critiqued the type of work we do, and utilized information from our website and framed our work with a negative, conservatively biased viewpoint, calling us “The New Civics” in a negative way & suggesting that we waste taxpayer money in the process of “indoctrinating” young people
- Peter Wood was involved in the creation of this report. He had ear of then President-elect Donald Trump at the end of 2016 to present a lengthy plan on how a Trump Administration ought to change higher ed across the country, making it more patriotic & less liberal.
- NAS hadn’t asked to interview INVST or CU Engage at all: no first-hand research was conducted through interviews for this report; all info was gathered from our web sites & then framed by the NAS authors, w/o our consultation
- After the NAS report was published, INVST and CU Engage staff were invited to an event “Wasted Colleges” that was on Jan 13th. Because the presentation by Peter Wood would not have space for open conversation, we decided to boycott.
- We notified some of our community partners who were listed [SPAN, Natural Capitalism Solutions, Philanthropiece Fdn, New Era Colorado & Intercambio] in the report just incase there was media attending; there hasn’t, so far, been much media attention

- CU Engage has been working with Strategic Communications (SC). SC has met with the provost & chancellor. Provost in particular is extremely supportive of INVST & CU Engage & will “defend our honor to the Regents if necessary”.
 - INVST staff are so grateful for CU Engage, overall as a community we feel like we acted quickly and strategically, with integrity & allegiance to & pride in our mission & our approach, & it was SO nice to not be isolated while addressing this situation.
 - Overall our organizational response was effective, however, there might be more attention like this because of current political scene so we are being proactive, looking at our messaging and our relationship w/ the community. A FAB sub-committee has met to discuss strategic communications & preparedness for INVST moving forward. They stand ready to advise.
 - Next we had a discussion about ideological diversity
 - Open dialogue on the idea of liberal/ multicultural studies as exploiting free labor from students (a.k.a. “volunteering”) and teaching them how to resist & oppose the government.
 - Ideological diversity, Scholar Tracy Orr
 - Four components of critical literacy
 - Assumptions
 - Standpoint
 - Based off of our assumptions, we take an active standpoint on an issue
 - Looking at/for alternatives
 - A point in the process of critical thinking where you become more aware and truly critical
 - Reflexivity
 - Example of Coal mining
 - Discussion
 - INVST actively offers “conservative” as part of our curriculum, varying perspectives
 - Reflexivity: importance of ongoing process
- Break (3:55-4:00)
- Committee Check-Ins:
 - Inclusivity and Outreach
 - 2 applicants this week; deadline is not til Feb 21
 - Recruitment is in process: Tabling, class announcements, posters, etc
 - Email update of needs going out this weekend: 2 more weeks, BIG PUSH
 - Staff Search & Selection
 - Drafting request for facilitators for the summer on its way, going out soon

- Identified a replacement for Jake McWilliams, Nonviolent Social Movements, INVS 4402
 - David Meens will be returning
 - Curriculum Committee
 - Met last week, plugging along for Economic Justice Summer planning
 - Made great contacts and connections, in the process of collaborating on an agenda and figuring out what will be the focus
 - Accessed resources on sanctuary cities
 - FAB Representatives
 - Last meeting was two weeks ago
 - Spearheading a spring fundraising event
 - Friday March 3 @ Shine @ 7 pm
 - Last few events went really well
 - Bingo night and Winter fundraising letter
- Conversation on “INVST” Acronym
 - Exploring the name change, desired outcomes, what else INVST could stand for.
 - NO DECISIONS WILL BE MADE TODAY
 - Break off into small clusters (3-4)
 - Big group brainstorming, Recorded all new ideas, **What we have so far**
 - Intersectional
 - integrating interdisciplinary network
 - Interdisciplinary
 - (K)Nowledge
 - inclusive networks
 - N-visioning
 - interdisciplinary network
 - N-vision sustainability and social justice tools
 - integrating nature via social transformation
 - Inclusive network validating systemic transformation
 - Inclusive network (en)visioning/value systemic transformation
 - Impact network of Voices
 - Inclusive network vital (for) systemic/social transformation
 - Varying systemic thinking
 - Variety of solutions
 - VALUING STRATEGIC transition
 - Values and solutions
 - Interdisciplinary Network enVisioning Environmental & Social Transformation (INVEST!)
 - Inclusive/Intersectional Network of voice for systematic/social/social justice Transformation
 - Inclusive Network of voices for environmental and social justice transformation/training

- Integrated network vitalizing environmental and social togetherness/transformation
 - Integrating necessary visions of environmental and social thinking
 - “ “ of systematic transformation
 - Inclusive network of visionary social and environmental transformers
 - “ “ Trainees
 - Integrating natural variation in environmental and social thinking
 - Inclusive/intersectional network of visionary students and teachers
 - Intersectional Network of students enVisioning Environmental Social Transformation
 - Intersectional non-hierarchical voices standing together
 - Inclusivity, NonViolence, and Social justice training
 - Inclusive and nonviolent environmental and social justice training
- Community Announcements
 - Upcoming show at Motus Theater
 - Sharing Our Stories
 - Individuals sharing their stories followed by community discussion
 - Brain Awareness Week
 - Healing The Village running yoga and talks on diversity in health treatment
 - Friday March 3rd
 - INVST Celebration of Boulder becoming a Sanctuary City, co hosted by CIRC & Motus Theater
 - Friday, April 7th 6-8pm (4:30 pm for first years)
 - Welcoming in the brand-new cohort
 - Mentors and Mentees Meet for first time
 - Seekers of Sound Solidarity opening up for new cohort members
 - Never been done before!!!
 - Not planning to change INVST as a whole, we are not becoming a 1-year training program for good, but given the current political circumstances we have decided to open up these opportunities to other students b/c we feel urgency to work for social/enviro justice now more than ever. Seekers are so bold & generous & wonderful for being willing to open up their group to potential others
- Closing
 - Facilitator for next month
 - Hannah
 - Elana as back up
 - Agenda for Next meeting
 - Continue the name process
 - Feedback for Andrea
 - Relaxed
 - Participatory

- Felt good walking in late
- Calm vibes
- Handled changes/ limitations in preparation in STRIDE