

## **INVST Directors' Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Friday, Jan 31, 2020 from 3:00-5:00 PM in Education 338**

#### I. Call to Order (Rebecca), by 3:10 pm

- Snack (brought by Sabrina Sideris) Thank you!
- Ice Breaker (Rebecca)
  - Finding commonalities
  - Groups of 4 or 5
  - No body parts, items of clothing, etc.
  - Discuss for 5 mins, scribes share out for 2 mins
- (3:20) Assign roles: Time Keep-Jennilee, Vibes- Erika H. Notes-Annie
- Approval of previous meeting's minutes → sent out via email & posted on the Directors' Committee Corner web page-All thumbs up
- (3:25) Today's agenda: review and consent (sent out via email by Sabrina by 1/30)-All thumbs up

#### II. New Business: 45 Minutes, 3:30-4:15

##### a. New Business-Sabrina on behalf of Curriculum Committee (CC)

-CC met in Nov and Jan and created a statement that we have copies of in front of us. There were some visits on the Economic Justice summer that brought up discomfort while on site with community partners. During the TY note convo, a larger conversation came up about the community partners and individuals that INVST visits during the summer and the question if our visits are endorsements of the work they do. This conversation carried over to group time and was concluded there. In CC we wanted to take that learning into account and be responsive and proactive about future cohorts.

Katie LD, Claire OB and Sabs were the 3 primary authors. Let's all read quietly, discuss in pairs and then follow with a whole group discussion.

Sabrina lays out the staff roles in the summers. Sabrina as the Program Director created the overall schedule for the summer, then Annie or the Admin Assistant will do further coordination and logistics and then summer staff who are with students on the summer have a role in communicating and organizing with community partners, as well as framing experiences.

This statement would be on the canvas website, in the spf training manual, could also be placed on the INVST website where the INVST summers are described.

Notes on group discussion:

*3rd paragraph and option to opt out-2nd part felt a little aggressive-change to cannot justify attending and add a sentence about opting out for feeling unsafe. Add "If there is an occurrence where a student feels unsafe or their well being would be impacted negatively by any component, we trust them to opt out..." ....Think this should be included just to spell out t the difference between discomfort and feeling unsafe. It is important to include a sentence like this rather than just assuming that would be encompassed by the line below:  
"All are trusted to discern whether to participate in any given activity."*

*All agreed and are in support of having this statement-have some word change suggestions. Didn't love "not shying away" in last paragraph.*

*Talked about the need for a sentence that starts out the whole statement which outlines our belief system around ideological diversity. Our commitment and what it is and diving into details.*

*Talked about how some of the concern came from paying for the "controversial" visits. Does not need to be included in this statement, but **have summer program facilitators mention to students that INVST does not provide financial support and in staff training, help summer staff prepare to better frame and prep site visits.***

*Semantics-removing "But" from the 1st sentence of 2nd paragraph.*

*Rephrase the last sentence of the 4th paragraph to make it more concise.*

*Grammatical- last sentence of 1st paragraph is confusing. Let's change it to "Visits to certain orgs and individuals" rather than what is there now.*

*Also, remove "to some" from the 1st paragraph.*

*Great overall. Important that individuals can opt out and important for INVST to offer varied opinions on ideological issues.*

*Sabrina reads final statement with edits made. Everyone approves.*

*One last comment-Instead of "visits to" change to "visits with"*

**\*\*\*The final adopted commitment is at the end of these notes, just scroll down\*\*\***

III. Break (4:15-4:25)

IV. Old Business (4:25-4:35)

INVST tag-line & Admissions Update-New tagline is on INVST outreach materials including lawn signs which are currently up around campus (10 of them), posters, digital ads, bus ads, and soon table tents and display cases in the UMC. We have admitted 3 students already who applied last semester by our early app deadline. We currently have 2 more applications in. Our deadline is Monday, March 9th. Please help spread the word and refer to us students who might be interested.

What professors should we reach out to?

Joanna Lambert

Robert Wyrob

Katie Fisher

Allison Cool

Allison Hatch

Laura Patterson

Michaele Ferguson

Max Boykoff

Wolfgang Keller-ECON

Sally Green

Cheyonna Sewell

Larry Southall

Tiel Lundy-Intro film classes and undeclared students

Liane Pederson-Gallegos

Feel free to give class announcements and write on board that INVST is now accepting applications-apply by 3/9 [colorado.edu/invst](http://colorado.edu/invst)

VI. Reports by Standing Committees (4:50-4:55)

- a. FAB meeting on Tues, Feb 4 from 4-5:30 -Taylor and Franky have been doing awesome work to get our Gala up and running, along with the FAB. A 30th anniversary video is in the works, pocket tees with a sweet INVST 30th logo, lots of overall weekend planning,etc. Sabrina has been working on securing larger donations and commitments from some of INVSTs longtime donors.
- b. Curriculum Committee CC is reviewing evals from last summer to see if any pieces need to be swapped or changed.
- c. Staff Search & Selection will begin meeting today -We are accepting cover letters and resumes until Feb.10th. You can apply to be an Ops Coordinator if you are about to graduate. Otherwise must be out of INVST for a year to apply for SPF. Positions are all open to beyond INVST alum pool. Can find job descriptions and how to apply here: <https://www.colorado.edu/invst/2-year-invst-program/justice-summers/now-hiring>

V. Announcements (4:35-4:50)

Nina is putting on a menstrual drive art show with 20 percent going towards helping women buy menstrual products. It will be in April after spring break.

Rebecca and Makena are collecting bras that could be sold at 2nd hand called free the girls to give income to people coming out of sex trafficking. If you have a gently used bra, you can drop it off in the peace room.

There is a Youth Climate Summit tomorrow being put on by YOAB.

Brexit went through today and am sad

Please connect us with people who want to be in storytelling workshop-Jennilee, Erika and Emma- they need 7 more people. Writers are getting together at Innisfree tomorrow for free-writing. Might be good to go. 6 weeks every other week for 2 hours before April.

SOL project group launched their website yesterday! Check them out: [Theinbetween2020.com](http://Theinbetween2020.com)

CLOSING

Self-appreciation

Who will facilitate Feb.21st? Kayleigh Cornell! Erin to assist if possible  
Erika Hasse with do the one in April (if we have it)

### **Agenda items for next month?**

Updates on advertising for the next generation of INVST- do we need to increase our efforts?  
How many applicants do we have?

Facilitator feedback

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES to put on your calendar:

#### ***Anti-Oppression Community Conversations:***

Two in class:

Mon, April 13th from 5 – 6:30 pm

Mon, March 2nd from 5 – 6:30 pm

One in DC:

Friday, Feb 21 from 3-4:15 pm, DC meeting follows from 4:20-5 pm

#### ***Other DC meetings, as well as other important INVST events:***

**Directors' Committee Meetings**

Fri, Feb. 21 from 3 - 5 pm

Fri, April 24 from 3 - 5 pm (this time slot is held in case a business meeting is needed on this day; to be canceled if we finish DC business on Feb. 21)

**The Spring Gathering** will be on Fri, April 24 from 5 pm - 7 pm. Not only will the INVST community meet the new members of the Class of 2020-22, but we will also hear the final SOL Project presentations from Common Sound Initiative, the Class of 2020! This will not be a potluck; refreshments will be provided by INVST.

**INVST Graduation**

Sat, May 9 from 1 pm - 4 pm in the Old Main Chapel at CU Boulder (ceremony followed by reception; both will be planned by Common Sound Initiative in Group Time this Spring)

*Please put these on your calendar now, take off of work in advance if necessary & plan to attend each INVST event.*

And please note this very important date & tell your friends who will be applying to INVST:

Final admissions deadline: Mon, Mar 9th, 2020 by 11:59 pm  
<https://www.colorado.edu/invst/clp-apply>

**Optional but highly recommended event for INVST students & staff:**

**CU Boulder Diversity & Inclusion Summit**, Tuesday, [February 25](#)

As always, important dates and event details can be found here:  
<http://www.colorado.edu/invst/calendar>

**FINAL** adopted commitment:

### INVST Statement on Ideological Diversity

INVST is committed to ideological diversity.

Some agencies and companies that INVST visits during the Justice Summers may seem to be mis-aligned with INVST students' values or offensive to their moral codes. Visits with certain organizations and individuals may challenge INVST students' ways of thinking.

INVST values having opportunities to engage with various ideas and perspectives. It prepares students to be change agents not in the world that *could be* but in the world that *is*. It stretches students' minds and helps teach critical thinking skills. After all, that is the purpose of INVST: the learning.

There is a difference between being unsafe and being uncomfortable. If there is an occurrence where a student feels unsafe or their wellbeing would be impacted negatively, we trust them to opt out. All adult learners in INVST are trusted to discern whether or not they will participate in a particular visit, talk or tour.

One of the readings that students engage with before the first Justice Summer talks about the importance of bearing witness in order to better understand complex issues. Each INVST cohort has the autonomy and space to make informed, consensus decisions in regard to the way they engage with community partners, and after the Justice Summers, with thanking said partners. INVST staff's role is to make these opportunities available, but individual learners reserve the right to opt out of a field trip or talk.

Part of INVST is leaning into the complexity of issues and the discomfort that can arise when faced with opposing viewpoints.

## DRAFT

### INVST Statement on Ideological Diversity

Some agencies and companies that INVST visits during the Justice Summers may seem to some to be mis-aligned with INVST students' values or offensive to their moral codes. Visits including coal mines, prisons and lobbying firms may challenge INVST students' ways of thinking.

But having opportunities to engage with various ideas and perspectives is very useful. It prepares students to be change agents not in the world that *could be* but in the world that *is*. It stretches students' minds and helps teach critical thinking skills. After all, that is the purpose of INVST: the learning.

All adult learners in INVST have the option to sit out a particular visit, talk or tour if they absolutely cannot personally justify attending or participating.

One of the readings that students engage with before the first Justice Summer talks about the importance of bearing witness in order to better understand complex issues. Each INVST cohort has the autonomy and space to make informed, consensus decisions in regard to the way they engage with community partners, and after the Justice Summers, with thanking said partners. It is the role of INVST staff to make these opportunities available, but if individual learners opt out of a field trip or talk, that is their right.

Part of INVST is leaning into the complexity of issues and not shying away from the discomfort that can arise when faced with opposing viewpoints.