

**INVST Community Studies**  
**Directors' Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, October 21, 2016 in HUMN 125 from 3-5 pm**

I. Anti-Oppression Community Conversation, 3-4 pm

Sabrina went over the Anti-Oppression conversation series and how it is connected into the rest of the CLP. Anti-Oppression conversations are connected to the Inclusivity Training over the summers and there will be 6 EACH year.

**Anti-Oppression Community Conversation: The Standing Rock Uprising by the Sioux Tribe & Their Allies**

Sabrina introduced the recent Standing Rock Uprising & reminded the group that Indigenous People's Day just recently happened on October 10th:

*"Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries, which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492. Some people celebrate Indigenous People's Day.*

*As that holiday was celebrated by some, others took notice of an inspiring struggle that is playing out in North Dakota. Led by the Standing Rock Sioux, Indigenous people from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico are gathering to oppose the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline, which would threaten to contaminate the Missouri River.*

*Dave Archambault, chairperson of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, explains: "It is a pipeline that is threatening the lives of people, lives of my tribe, as well as millions [of people] down the river. It threatens the ancestral sites that are significant to our tribe. And we never had an opportunity to express our concerns. This is a corporation that is coming forward and just bulldozing through without any concern for tribes."*

*The "bulldozing" of Indigenous lives, Indigenous lands, and Indigenous rights all began with Columbus's invasion in 1492. "With 50 men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want," Columbus bragged in his journal on his third day in the Americas. His policies in the Caribbean led to a horrific loss of life and culture. Columbus set the pattern for subsequent European invasions."*

Watched part of a part of a clip from Democracy Now! On North Dakota Access Pipeline.

*140 people protectors have been arrested since the beginning of this resistance. Amy Goodman interviewed Winona LaDuke-- Honor the Earth. They discussed some of the tactics that police were utilizing againsts the "protectors" (aka not protestors) ex strip searching folks, militarized response, journalists are getting arrested now AND this has been happening for months. Police are protecting company interest instead of the PEOPLE of the US. HUGE militarized response: schools locking down, "protestors in the area" demonizing this movement. The police have been escalating, the protectors have been using nonviolent direct action. "We are here because it matters" They are protecting the water. "Our constitutional rights are being violated."*

We broke out into small groups to go over reactions to the clip.

Large group discussion: what could allyship look like in a situation like this? Consider the different stake we all have, assuming that ally to "the other" people who are affected? We are

also dependent on oil, if the pipeline was closed down, the alternative would be trucks. There is never going to be an exact science/ not 1 correct research. What about addressing the addiction to oil? What is this substance that we need so badly that we cause so much destruction? Also, how can I critique oil when I use it everyday... [how do I not perpetuate the systemic issue]. How does this relate to the experiences people had during the climate justice summer? Continuously learning about the reality of colonialism, similar power dynamics happening. The root causes of the discrepancy between power isn't being addressed... brings up questions for this person around protesting, is there a more effective way. What are creative ways to interrupt power? Stop compartmentalizing, it keeps these systems in place. Issue based activism is perhaps flawed because it continues to compartmentalize. Mindfulness as a way to counteract misinformation and constant information of "different issues" People not being conscious of what's going on... people not wanting to pay attention. How can people say we [the US] are inclusive and safe when this is happening and people are choosing to ignore reality. Media connects into this, perpetuating oppressive situations, compartmentalizing people and issues.

Film: [http://www.democracynow.org/2016/10/18/standing\\_rock\\_sioux\\_pediatrician\\_threat\\_from](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/10/18/standing_rock_sioux_pediatrician_threat_from)

## II. Break

### III. DC Meeting: Opening, facilitated by Emily Valdez

A. Call to order by facilitator/Assign Roles: Haley to be notetaker, Elana to be vibes watcher, Lauren as timekeeper

B. Ice Breaker Go-Round: One, anything you want to say about the last hour and two, 1-2 feelings you are experiencing right now.

C. Agenda review & consent

**DECISION:** Agenda approved

D. Review & approval of last meeting's minutes (emailed by Haley S; only vote if you were there & you read them)

**DECISION:** Minutes Approved

### IV. INVST Budget (15-20 mins, Haley)

Haley did an interactive report of the current INVST budget.

*Why do we share the budget in DC? Why do we look at the INVST budget?*

**1- Every organization has a budget, helps reflect health of an organization. So you can learn about budgets & get comfortable/familiar with looking at them, to prepare you for your community leadership experiences in the future**

**2- Because a budget is a picture of what is happening in the org: nothing can hide in the budget, & nothing can get over or underemphasized thru narrative or b/c of the bias of the person who is speaking, Clear story of money flow**

**3- So you have the opportunity to chime in about what INVST spends money on, INVST likes to be as transparent as possible, learn and see where the money is going**

share what you think about how we're getting & using \$ ... INVST staff have in our job descriptions the responsibility to raise & manage INVST funds, & we have the specific knowledge to be able to do so, but we also want you to chime in if you have comments, or ask questions so you understand

**Budget Q&A Quiz**

List the 5 ways that INVST fundraises for the CLP summer experiences:

- 1- Student Fundraising (events coordinated, mostly by 1st-year students in the spring)
- 2-Staff Fundraising (letters we write with the CU Foundation & send out, Ethical Fashion Show, etc)
- 3- Student fees (these are called SPAF or Summer Program Activity Fees)
- 4-Major donors and grants
- 5-FAB board member events & contributions( BINGO, Brew party, Bill's chocolate)

**How to read the budget & budget overview** (general elements, funding sources, things to highlight)

- \*we have an ambitious goal this year to get \$20,000 worth of grants in order to provide even more financial aid
- \*huge cost of summers compared to overall budget, summers are NOT funded by the University so INVST each year is tasked with making money to cover the summer experiences
- \*SPAF fundraising is for 1st year students, the hope is that the 1st year cohort will raise one amount based off of \$375/per student

**Activity--- 5min**

In pairs, studying the budget, followed by discussion with a partner: are there aspects of the budget you have questions about? Do you see something you'd like to comment about?

Popquiz!

1- Who funds the INVST salaries and operating expenses?  
Continued University Funding

2- What CU entity manages INVST's funds and endowments?  
The CU Foundation

3- How much does summer programming cost, all included?  
\$65,440 EACH summer!

**V. Discussion: Economic Justice Summer Curriculum for 2017**

Last DC during the decision making process there was a brief mention of also having the Economic Justice Summer focus on Detroit element. We wanted to get people's feedback to see what the community felt about also adding Detroit.(The desired outcome for today was to:

gather input to bring back to Curriculum Committee for their next meeting, but we didn't have enough time to dig in). Do we deepen the Chicago portion or do we add time in Detroit. If we were to add Detroit, we would work with Grace Lee Boggs Center and look at some of themes specifically: Effects of NAFTA, post-industry town, when labor changed to international cheap labor, rust belt city economies, and then shifting to a different angle of labor and economic justice center from MSN (Chicago Community Partner). The Grace Lee Boggs Center for Community Leadership utilizes a resurgence approach to reviving Detroit, they focus on community power, school based approach to change, urban farming, and work "across issue" with local organizations. In Detroit could also talk about White flight, Education etc.

**Proposal:** This continues to be discussed in SOSS Group Time. Recommendation: People look through MSN & GLB website in order to have an informed discussion. SOSS will share input generated to curriculum committee.

**Decision:** Consensus

Mexico Solidarity Network-- <http://www.mexicosolidarity.org/>

Grace Lee Boggs Center-- <http://boggscenter.org/>

Now that this shift has happened, is INVST going to change it's name, International and National Volunteer Service Training no longer feels accurate.

**ACTION:** INVST name change? Talk about in next DC.

VI. Community Announcements--- asked people to share CA via Facebook and then we ended up having a little time at the end to share some upcoming events:

4 upcoming INVST events:

- 1) Informational Sessions for new INVSTers, invite friends, contacts who might be interested: Oct 25 (in UMC 245) & Nov 3 (in UMC 425), info sessions at 2 pm
- 2) Tues, Nov. 8 from 3:30-4:15 pm we will present at Diversity & Inclusion Summit
- 3) Wed, Nov 16: BINGO fundraiser for summer scholarships at Espressoria at 6:30 pm, bring everyone you know!

Flobots and 3rd Party Presidential Debate @ Mackey-- ask Elana for more information

Early CLP Application Deadline is Monday, November 14th, invite people to apply!

Regular Application Deadline: Feb 26th

VII. Closing (Emily, last 5 mins; 4:55 – 5 pm)

A. Feedback for Emily on her facilitation, by all

C. Next meeting facilitator:???

**ACTION:** Decide next DC facilitator in SRS GT

**Next DC Meeting: Fri, 11/18 from 3-5 pm in same room**

Next Meeting Agenda:

Standing Committee Updates

Detroit feedback from SOSS

INVST name conversation

Other?