

Director's Committee Meeting January 25th, 3-5pm

Goal of this meeting is to make a final decision on curriculum committee's proposal to swap MSN in Chicago, IL component for BAE with Annunciation House in El Paso for the summer of 2019

Facilitator: Mollie McCullough

Return to the curriculum committee proposal

Review consensus decision-making process with person next to you for 5 minutes, looking over the handouts

Back to group-Mollie highlights the joint interest part of consensus-making process. Reminder that we are all here in the best interest of INVST and the current 2nd year students. Unity is different from unanimous. Remember the spirit and process are most important. We all have a lot of love for each other and lets come from that place. If the meeting is not enjoyable than what do we need to change?

Too Many Cooks Ground Rules (written on the whiteboard)

- Respect all ideas decisions and people
- Take a second before adding to convo
- Use support systems in place
- Clarify what kind of convo we are having and respect structure of it
- Don't forget to have fun

Common Sound Initiative Ground Rules (written on the whiteboard)

- Challenge self and comfort zone
- Show appreciation for the space and each other
- Seek to understand before being understood

Sabrina presents a slightly edited version of proposal that Marwa proposed last DC meeting. The proposal is to go to the A house with the BAE for the summer of 2019 instead of working with MSN in Chicago. In 2020, INVST would go back to Chicago. Overview of INVST relationship with A-House including INVST alum that have continued to be involved with A House. Media entities that have reported from A house and recent happenings at A house. INVST students would be enhancing A house's ability to fulfill their vision by contributing much-needed funds. Beds would not be taken away from migrants. There are 4 houses. All activities will happen on the US/ El Paso side of the border. All students will bring cell phones with them in 2019-allowed and encouraged for the economic justice summer. Climate justice summer will still be cell phone-free. El Paso is rated as one of the safest cities of its size in the US. Whatever the case may be, INVST is adding an additional safety training as part of orientation for both cohorts and all summer staff.

QUESTIONS:

Question from Phoebe: The bus from Denver to El Paso-is it public? Yes-Los Limousines is a great bus line that goes directly and frequently from Denver to El Paso

Q: How much travel time would be added to the border vs. Chicago? Bus is cost-effective and efficient (overnight bus) to El Paso. Then fly to Detroit, then drive back to Denver. So basically the drive to Chicago would be replaced by the bus drive to El Paso. Overall travel time on the road would be similar.

Conversation about Nebraska/Kansas piece of the curriculum can happen via curriculum committee after this decision is made, there is clearly some comments/thought that Too Many Cooks have about these components.

Letter from Sinead with her perspective are people interested? Mollie shared the letter from Sinead with her thoughts about this proposal.

Is there a service aspect to the border? Yes- meal prep and cleaning of house (basic upkeep and then also sometimes deeper cleaning/refurbishing), also listening and traveling with stories that are shared.

At MSN a lot of discussion and lectures and hearing people's stories but not experiential/service.

Experience of daily life with people after settling in US was valuable at MSN, more personal than expected.

How would we communicate to MSN if we were not going? Sabs had a phone meeting with Tom Hanson last year when Too Many Cooks had recently returned. Mostly convo was that Tom was impressed with the cohort and about what everyone and host families took away. Tom understands that we work in a hefty risk management environment (CU Boulder). Feel confident that the relationship will be strong with MSN though does not have direct contact with host families.

It's cool that we've been going to El Paso for so long and that is comforting. Thinks MSN is really cool and would be cool to develop that relationship.

How much time would people be in El Paso vs. Casa Vides house?

What about detention centers? There may be opportunity to tour in El Paso or Aurora. INVST tries every year to make this happen. Seems like we would not want to ignore/avoid this.

Suggestion that Common Sound could also do a clothing drive to bring stuff to El Paso?

BREAK

DISCUSSION:

Discussion-based, lets limit questions.

Last question-what is the pressure from the administration? Challenge of fulfilling our mission and keeping everyone safe. We do not want to be on the radar of university risk management and the administration. There is a risk of us being able to offer experiential education components at all if we get negative press/attention from upper administration. We want to do everything in our power to not be in that position again.

Erika Haase-leading towards BAE in El Paso based on what she's heard and also trusts curriculum committee's decision that they are making this proposal because they have done the work in determining what they think would be best.

Cam-specific rules were given to students by homestay families and says she felt safe in Chicago and with MSN in homestays and feels it's essential that a safety training happens no matter where ever students go. Supports both learning opportunities. The only hesitation I have is that it would only be for 2019 because of this cohort's documentation status.

Homestay is something that I wanted to do and was leaning to Chicago because of that, but if that would put INVST in danger than let's go to El Paso.

Direct response from Phoebe-there would be a lot of opportunity to speak Spanish and interact with people on the border.

Jess is for Chicago and thinks it's extreme to adhere to CU norms. INVST is its own thing and doesn't care about administration. Facilitators would get heat but doesn't see a concern feels super emotional about this change. She thinks MSN would be emotional. One of the last things MSN said was please don't let this influence how you feel about us

Will INVST 100% for sure go back to Chicago next summer (2020)? How would this look to the administration? If homicide rates continued to rise in Chicago, we may have this conversation again and not go back to Chicago.

What is the impact of bringing cell phones? Could this be more of a danger? A distraction? How does this change the trip?

Proposal to move cell phone discussion to another (maybe next) DC Meeting? There are many things people have to say about this-consensus on moving phone convo to future meeting

Other thoughts from TP that aren't here? One thought that A House needs \$ right now to help with supporting migrants, etc. in support of El Paso-another cohort member feels strongly about financial impact.

Feeling the reality of being part of an institution that has power over us and the ability to cut programming. It is not out of the range of possibilities that CU could cut INVST or at least the experiential part of our learning.

Having a hard time letting go of MSN - had a great time with homestay families

Outside of the administration, we are a community that looks out for each other and what do we value more, being radical or caring for each other?

Not head over heels for El Paso because of documentation status and a student in the past not having had the opportunity participate in summer travel (when INVST used to travel internationally - we have to think long term past just this next year. Response-we could hopefully have enough time in advance to change curriculum in the future if needed (beyond Chicago and El Paso).

Even though not on board with going to El Paso, feel super strongly about Chicago but not worth defending Chicago anymore.

Beyond MSN and A House there are so many cool and amazing opportunities and experiences and we are always missing out on something. There are so many communities in need and will keep MSN in mind for the future.

A hard decision and as a 1st year student, wants to hear from 2nd year students and their feelings. If never knew there was a choice, would be happy going to either place.

Best part of Chicago was getting to interact with people and speaking Spanish and meeting beautiful people—that experience could happen all over the world. It's so hard to think about what would I be missing out on? Because there is no way to know. There is a lot of visceral emotion attached to this decision but I do feel like we are getting somewhere.

Thumbs test for consensus--->Mostly thumbs up, many thumbs to the side, no thumbs down. Documentation piece is very important—if we couldn't go to Chicago or El Paso, is there a 3rd option? Last time that this much was at stake in terms of INVST programming was 2 years ago when there was a decision to switch to Chicago to protect undocumented students. Would message be related to Tom at MSN that would be just for one year? We will convey with clarity to staff at MSN that this would be a one year decision.

Could we write a formal letter? Perhaps a personal card to homestay family to convey feelings?

Allie adds that she feels so good that one of her cohort members (Taylor Levy) is there and understands the attachment to a learning experience that you had personally.

Many concerns have been addressed—logistical and also mainly relationship with MSN. Feeling like both would be amazing experience and yet feeling the pressure of the administration and the addressing documentation status in future years. Feeling good either way and trusting the community and process. And feels a sad sweet breakup feeling about not going back to Chicago. Supportive of decision to go to El Paso but also sad.

Can INVST commit to having a future conversation about the inclusivity commitment in how we really implement and support this in our programming?

Consensus has been reached. Going to El Paso.

Announcements:

- BINGO!!! Everyone come! Learn about fundraising! **Tuesday, February 12th** from 5-6pm is socializing food and drinks 6-8pm is actual BINGO. Left Right Tim will be MCing! AVERY brewery Flatirons location in East Boulder
- BIFF volunteer for 2 hours and get into a film for free—contact Jenilee
- Erika is going vagina monologues—who wants to go?
- It is admissions time at INVST—please nominate people who you think would be great for INVST—send an email to sabrina or annie or invst@colorado.edu to tell us someone who would be great.
- Facilitator feedback!