

**INVST Community Studies**  
**First Directors' Committee Meeting of the Fall – Minutes**  
**Fri, September 23, 2016 in HUMN 125 from 3-5 pm**

**I. Opening (Elana Brown)**

Call to order by facilitator/Assign Roles, introducing our new admin assistant, Haley Squires

Ice Breaker Go-Round: (silly) wand, what's your patronus (from Harry Potter)?

In Pairs: talk about a time when you helped a group make a decision

Agenda review & consent: DECISION -- consent achieved

Review & approval of last meeting's minutes: DECISION -- consent achieved

**II. Orientation to Directors' Committee**

Directed students to the INVST website, Calendar, DC Corner

(<http://www.colorado.edu/invst/resources/director>), History of INVST, Handbook -- all community members can access these as resources & supports

- attendance and participation policy for DC, ALL are required to attend 1st and last DC meetings of the semester.
  - 2nd year students are required to attend all DC meetings
  - 1st year students are required to attend half the meetings, report back to their TP
  - "Mandatory" in INVST means required to attend, if a student doesn't have class/an exam they are required to attend, "compassionate understanding" in the rare case that you have a work or family obligation, however, you have so much advance notice about the dates of INVST events, we hope you will plan accordingly, please
- Agenda making- facilitator and Sabrina co plan the agenda, everyone is encouraged to read this ahead of time and provide input/feedback, allows for democratic engagement, power sharing in the community since our agenda dictates how we will spend our meaningful time together
- All of the following can be found in our Handbook & was reviewed ... Any staff member, alum, FAB member, current student etc can bring an issue to DC by first putting it on the agenda in advance
- INVST's formal grievance policy: gives members of an organization an outlet to verbalize issues if/when you don't want to verbalize that grievance directly to a leader in the organization
- We recognize High Holidays -- they are listed on your syllabi, on our calendar online & in our Handbook
- Information on the Leadership Studies Minor
- There are fundraising guidelines as to what types of industry INVST is not okay with receiving money from
- Mental Health Support, reach out to us, look in the CLP handbook

**WHAT IS DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE:**

- Typically in university settings, staff members make decisions about the organization without the input of affected students; INVST functions differently

- We strive to govern in a horizontal way, BUT we are situated in an organization/system that is hierarchical, this creates a unique dynamic for the governance of INVST
- Small democracy in DC:
  - We learn to lead by being leaders
  - We try and share power and responsibility
- Decisions lead to policy, policy leads to our hand book, so your input MATTERS!
- Decision-Making in INVST
  - Elana shared specific examples from last year about how decisions got made
  - INVST students from GRK & Sonder Root Sky decided which community partner to work with for the ISSLE, and then decided about our Inclusivity & Anti-Oppression Statements and how to meet that commitment through our curriculum.
- Went over several scenarios to get a better understanding of the decision-making chart that is on the INVST website, at DC corner
- Don't forget to utilize Facebook, listserve and class to share information and announcements with the INVST community

#### Organizational Chart (Sabs)

- This chart describes where we sit within the University, and who plays what roles.
- Standing Committees are meant to work on various issues that come up in the community and DC:
  - Curriculum to support INVST staff in developing curriculum design, redesign, for both the academic year and summers (Elana, Andrea, Emily, Michael, Maddie, Haley S, Becca)
  - Staff Search & Selection Committee--hire facilitators, any new instructors, staff assist with training, new students, advice on staff issues, review FCQs (Roudy, Sabrina, Makaela), active in spring primarily
  - Inclusivity- advise, assist in recruitment, develop events and address any issues that arise from the community (Sabs, Haddie)
  - Fundraising Advisory Board (Ben & Josh are the CLP reps) This is made up of INVST friends, alumni, community members etc who help INVST fundraise in order to ensure that the summer's happen

III. Break, Snack brought by Melissa R & Haley S

IV. Proposal & Discussion: SSLE Curriculum for 2017

#### ***The INVST Community Leadership Program New Second Summer Curriculum Proposal:***

##### ***Economic Justice Summer, July & August 2017***

*Themes: human migration, push-pull across borders, why newcomers to the US have left their country of origin, economic factors that attract new immigrants to US cities, the undocumented and unafraid movement, undocumented workers & how they experience the US/where they can & cannot find work, immigrant communities organizing for their rights & the betterment of their neighborhoods, the concept of solidarity*

*Destinations: Nebraska or Iowa, Chicago, Denver*

*Visit meat packing plants in Nebraska or Iowa, on our way to Chicago, Illinois*

*Themes explored: human migration, economic factors that attract new immigrants to US cities, undocumented workers & how they experience the US/where they can & cannot find work*

- JBS Swift Meat Packing Plants: JBS USA is a leading processor of beef, pork and lamb in the U.S., a leading processor of beef in Canada, and the largest cattle feeder in the world.
- Located in northern Colorado, the JBS and Pilgrim's corporate headquarters in Greeley supports more than 75,000 JBS employees at more than 170 production plants & feed lots in 26 US states, plus Australia, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico.
- These are stops along the way, between Boulder & Chicago, where INVST could show students the JBS operations: Greeley, Colorado, Grand Island, Nebraska, Omaha, NE, Marshalltown, Iowa or Ottumwa, IA  
<http://jbssa.com/about/locations/>
- According to Democracy Now! In Dec 2006: At least 1,280 workers were arrested in a series of immigration raids targeting meatpacking plants owned by the company Swift. The raids took place in Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Iowa and Minnesota, marking the largest sweep of its kind ever against a single company.

*Chicago*

- One primary community partner, an old friend: <http://mexicosolidarity.org/aboutmsn>
- Read MSN description from web site
- Sample MSN Itinerary:
- **Day 1:**
- Arrive in Albany Park (North Chicago community, predominantly immigrant neighborhoods)
- Orientation with Mexico Solidarity Network
- Dinner
- Introduction to MSN and Centro Autonomo (with Isabel and Cecy) Meet your host families!
- **Day 2:**
- Breakfast with host family
- Reflection
- Presentation: Current Immigration Policy (with Antonio) Lunch at Centro Autonomo
- Tour of Albany Park Neighborhood (with Antonio) Dinner at Centro Autonomo
- Meeting with Autonomous Tenants Association (ATA)
- Homestay
- **Day 3:**
- Breakfast with host family
- Reflection
- Presentation: US/MX Immigration History (with Tony) Lunch at Centro Autonomo
- Meet with Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD) Dinner at Centro Autonomo
- Participation in Autonomous University Master's Class - Zapatismo & Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Homestay
- **Day 4:**
- Breakfast with host family
- Reflection
- Presentation: Immigration Stories (with Centro Autonomo Members) Lunch at Centro Autonomo
- Meet with Albany Park Theater Project
- Dinner at Centro Autonomo
- Fun INVST Group Excursion (TBD)

- Homestay
- **Day 5:**
- Breakfast with host family
- Reflection
- Presentation: Community Organizing, skills & strategies (with Tony and Isabel) Lunch at Centro Autonomo
- Workshop on Popular Education and Writing (with Janise) Dinner at Centro Autonomo and Despedida/Farewell celebration with host families
- Homestay (More than 5 days are possible & likely; this sample itinerary comes from an allied Colorado group that stayed for 5 days in 2016)

*Additional options & possibilities in Chicago:*

*US history of social movements; labour movement and history of unions; justice campaigns for immigrants, especially working in meat packing plants; African American leadership, civil rights action, the Underground Railroad and West Chicago's history as a hub for anti-slavery activity ... also social justice education and teacher organizing in public schools, as well as resistance to gentrification of low-income neighborhoods of color*

*Readings could come from, and thought leaders could be: The Jungle by Upton Sinclair (1906); [Mariano Espinoza](#) executive director of the Minnesota Immigration Freedom Network; United Food and Commercial Workers International union; Northern Colorado Dreamers United & Sylvia Martinez, of Latinos Unidos, both in Greeley, Colorado; CIRC (Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition) in Boulder & Greeley, CO*

### **Back to Colorado:**

*ICE facility run by GEO, with a tour: <http://www.geogroup.com/maps/locationdetails/39> with support from Sarah Schnall, RMIAN, and Piper at AFSC in Denver*

### **Refugee ed advocacy in greater Denver metro area:**

*Place Bridge Academy Pre K - 6/8th, a DPS school*

- Economic migrants
- People fleeing violence in their country of origin
- More than 60 different languages and over 40 different countries from around the world are represented in our student body, and our school stands behind a foundation of acceptance and inclusiveness. In order to address the unique needs of our newly arriving refugee and immigrant students, Place Bridge Academy has "Newcomer Centers" alongside our mainstream classrooms in grades K-6 to provide concentrated English language development.
- Serving 1800 Denver families: children who have experienced interrupted education, a student from Baghdad for whom it was too unsafe to go to school; families from places where it was unsafe for girls to go to school, or they had no infrastructure -- Quana thinks Place Bridge shows what a school can do, what they are capable of ...

*Refugee resettlement agencies and non-profits: **Visits in Denver***

- Organizations that work on human trafficking & sex trafficking
- There is an academic/research center at DU
- African Community Center - TO HELP REFUGEES REBUILD SAFE, SUSTAINABLE LIVES IN DENVER THROUGH SUPPORTIVE NETWORKS OF PEOPLE, SERVICES AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
- Asian Pacific Development Center - Often a first stop for new refugees in the area. Providing services to integrate folks into the community.
- Colorado African Organization - Provides services to integrate newcomers into community as well as maintain programming that helps build African community
- Colorado Refugee Wellness Center - Clinic for physical and mental wellness and support services for refugees
- Project Worthmore is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the quality of life of Denver-area refugees by providing cultural mentorship and community supports. Started by Frank and Carolyn Anello in early 2011, PWM began as a makeshift response to the unmet needs of our refugee neighbors. Now as relationships and knowledge of

*refugee needs have grown, the community response has become an organized effort to serve the vast needs through the heart of our community.*

- *The Denver Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs promotes greater awareness and integration of immigrant and refugee residents in Denver. We partner with nonprofits, community based organizations, residents and government agencies to develop and implement policies, practices and programs that influence the various paths of immigrant integration.*

## Discussion of Proposal:

Why did this shift happen? Sabrina and curriculum committee gave input on what happened last year. The proposal came about as a tangible way for INVST to uphold their commitment to being an anti-oppressive organization. This is how we embody our anti-oppression statement, while still fulfilling our academic goals.

What about Detroit, would talk more about NAFTA, economic justice in post-industrial cities?

What about the border component? What happened, why is this no longer on here?

We will not be able to have the border part of the experience like we have had in the past even though it is technically within the United States. Through recent experience, research and reaching out to community partners we have found that while travelling to the border safety for people with differing documentation status' is questionable. The closer you get to the border, the more incidents of intimidation, traffic stops "show me your papers", and interactions with police officers in general increase. There is also logistical reasons, we would not be able to fit in a full experience in BOTH Chicago and El Paso.

It was mentioned that Annunciation House has been a community partner of ours since 1993 and this transition does feel exciting AND sad. We hope to connect INVST students to Annunciation House whenever is possible, we have had a number of students volunteer/work there. Possibly INVST can connect students with Fall/Spring Break volunteer experiences, maybe in conjunction with Alternative Breaks on campus.

**Proposal:** To accept the proposal provided by Curriculum Committee on the new Economic Justice Summer, starting Summer 2017.

**Decision:** Consensus achieved

From SOSS, this feels exciting AND sad, but can we acknowledge the loss, because the group had thought that they would travel internationally.

## Community Announcements

Please share any announcements during this time and at future DC meetings.

Lauren describe the 1st year students' name decision making process: Seekers of Sound Solidarity-seekers indicates, constantly learning & reflecting, sound- group saw a tree fall naturally on backpacking component-- if a tree falls saying, so(u)lidar(e)ity

Went around and shared internship sites and SOL Project possibilities

## Closing

C. Next meeting facilitator: Emily (a 2<sup>nd</sup>-year CLP student); Nov DC meeting facilitator: 11/18 --Andrea?

**Next DC Meeting: Fri, 10/21 from 3-5 pm**

