GLOBE DEI Working Group Minutes 9-22-2022

Attending: Shadrack, Juan, Francis, Rosalba, Imani, Marina, Trena, Grace

The Working Group discussed the issues of how it wants to handle issues of observances, looking at the Hispanic Heritage Month as an example. After some discussion, it was concluded that as a rule, the Working Group will steer clear of recognizing single observances on the grounds that the choices for recognition might not be as inclusive of the global GLOBE constituency as it would desire. We also considered some concerns that recognition of some observances might give rise to ideological and political issues not germane to the overall thrust of our mission and potentially damaging for our goal in facilitating full, unfettered participation in GLOBE throughout the world.

The Working Group decided to expand and modify an end of/beginning of the year project it began last year that gave Working Group members an opportunity to share holiday season comments and relevant recipes with each other. This project was reshared and edited and updated for members of the DEI TASK Force alumni collective during the 2022 annual meeting. The new plan is for a collection that might be referred to as New Years Around the GLOBE. Members of the GLOBE constituency will be solicited via Google Form to present descriptions of their end/beginning of the year observances and to share narratives of any customs or recipes or artifacts of these as part of an anthology which will then be shared as a “gift” to the GLOBE community. Trena indicated she would remain as the primary editor for the project and both Francis and Shadrach volunteered to assist with the layout of the final product.

The group discussed the draft Imani distributed of a program, tentatively called PLANET, which was originally conceived as a program to assist non-native speakers of English in onboarding GLOBE, both teachers and students. The draft is to be discussed at a subsequent meeting of the TSA subcommittee which will be open to all the Working Group membership. As a result of the free-form discussion of the draft, it was agreed to expand the focus of the program. Juan suggested that in addition to the onboarding of the protocols, that there be a component added in which teachers would be able to see what is possible in the application of the protocols and various technologies to student projects. Marina commented on the need to focus on face-to-face interactions as a means for facilitating the dialogue related to the proposal. Finally, it was agreed that an important part of the work was making sure that there was background research done on what translated materials might be out there in the “GLOBE ether” that could be harvested and/or repurposed as part of this initiative.

Rosalba, Grace, and Juan shared with the Working Group some of the outputs and process behind some Spanish language e-learning modules that were uncovered as an outgrowth of translation work being done for the Mosquito Project and that has subsequently been made available from a collective LAC in Argentina to the larger GLOBE community via the web.

Imani shared that the US Coordinator and leader of all things “watercooler” Jennifer has created a new blog which will include updates on the activities of the Working Groups. He indicated that he would share the minutes with her and help contextualize any issues from the Working Group activities when and if it was needed.