Diversity Committee—Meeting of September 9, 2015

Attending: Jeff Banks (chair), Molly Boyd (guest), Rachel Fox, Tess Gibson, Phil Jones, Martha Parker (guest), Janell Prater, Jonathan Torres, Tim Zou

Banks welcomed the new members of the committee and acknowledged the service of past members.

Parker announced the visit of Rigoberta Menchú, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992. On October 12 Menchú will attend a dinner. She visits Mullins Library the following day at 9AM for a discussion in the Walton Reading Room with faculty and staff. Members of the Diversity Committee (coordinated by Jones) will prepare an exhibit of works relevant to her career on a table in the reading room. Greeters and interpreters will be present and persons who speak Spanish will be identified with a badge; members of the committee will participate.

The committee will have a presence at the ArkanSalsa Fest in Springdale, which will be the following weekend (October 17–18).

Boyd announced events pertaining to the Libraries’ successful application to the NEH / ALA program Latino Americans: 500 Years of History. The Libraries received $3000 and will provide public programs, including with partners.

- On September 10 the Fayetteville Public Library will host a reception at 5:30PM, followed by a screening at 6PM of the fourth of six episodes of the PBS documentary on Latino Americans and their history. Dr. Juan Bustamante of Sociology will discuss the episode after the viewing.
- Also this month Bustamante will curate an exhibit, Migrant Voices, on the experience of undocumented Latino immigrants in the United States, which will be displayed in the northwest corridor of the Lobby Level.
- Two back-to-back episodes will be shown at the Veterans Administration Hospital on October 9.
- Venues for screenings in 2016, with dates to be determined include the Shiloh Museum and Haas Hall Academy.
- Dr. Elena Foulis of Ohio State University and an alumna of the University of Arkansas, will give a workshop on oral history and undocumented communities. Her presentation will include techniques on eliciting narratives from potentially reluctant subjects.
The Libraries plans to participate in the Rogers International Festival in July 2016, which is a gala with a broad (not exclusively Latino) emphasis.

Banks and Parker led a discussion of the committee’s web page and LibGuide after Banks gave an overview of the web page and Parker gave an overview of the LibGuide. The former must be modified to adhere to the revised style for the campus and Web Services provided Banks with a draft. A suggestion was made to consider eliminating one of the two. A general consensus emerged to retain both but tighten the distinctions between them, one idea being that the web page could favor news and the Libraries as an organization and the LibGuide could focus on the resources that the Libraries offer. Concerns were raised about the discoverability of the two. Banks asked for written feedback on the new style by Monday.

Jones and Torres will take the lead role on the exhibit for the event with Rigoberta Menchú and ArkanSalsa Fest, respectively. Jones will work with the Right Hands; planning must consider access to the room and security.

Banks did not set the next meeting; he would like to meet as needed. He expects to have a meeting by early October.

Submitted by Jones