University of Denver Religious Council
–General Meeting for all DURC Members–

Minutes of Meeting(s) of 8/21 & 8/23, 2012

Present: Gary Brower, Chaplain; Tom Balma; Abby Baumbach; Laura Compton; Shawn Cramer; Kristi Gessler; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Jared Searle, Justin Spicer; Darian Venerable

Absent: Grant Chinn; Claude d’Estree; Charles Gilford; Liza Stoltz Hanson; Ricky Ketchum; Paul Miller; Josh Samet; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski

1. Each meeting began with a period of prayerful silence
2. We continued with (re-) introductions, along with a sharing of specific goals we each had for the year. Gary made sure that each gathering knew who wasn’t at that particular table, as there are many new folks.
3. Gary passed around the draft of the DURC Brochure for final comments/corrections. If you haven’t checked your paragraph on the website (it is the same material as in the brochure), please do so immediately!
4. Debate Update and Possibilities (Issue Alley): Gary updated folks on the status of the campus regarding the Presidential Debate on Oct. 3. Classes are cancelled, and (non-essential) staff are welcome to stay home. There will be a “Debate Fest” from 3:00 - 10:00 on the lawn between Mary Reed, Margery Reed, Penrose. Part of the “fest” will be an “Issue Alley”, at which groups/organizations can promote themselves/their causes. There was a general sense that the DURC should have a table. Assuming that happens, can you help staff the table? And, what do you think we should “do” at the table?
5. Discoveries: Gary gave a brief update/reminder on the events of Discoveries Orientation week:
   • Move-in: Sunday 9/2 am. If you want to help, contact Megan Pendley-Pickett (mpendley@du.edu)
   • Ice Cream Social: Monday 9/3. Lunch will be served at the Field House for students and families from 11:30 - 1:30. The DURC can have a table outside giving away ice cream and otter pops. The suggestion is that the table be ready to go at 11:00. Shawn Cramer has agreed to be one “lead” on this; he’s hoping for help in organizing. If you can help him in this regard, please let him know (cramer.shawn@gmail.com). If you are able to help staff the table, please send an email to the list-serve (durc-1@du.edu)
   • Pioneer Carnival: Saturday 9/8, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. If you haven’t already reserved your table, do so quickly! Deadline for registration is 8/24. http://tinyurl.com/bttaty4.
6. Religious & Spiritual Life and the DU Religious Council
   • Vision & Mission Statement. Gary went over the Vision & Mission Statement for the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life (attached). He reminded the members that their role vis-a-vis the Office was basically as the “front-line troops”. The DURC aids the Chaplain in realizing the vision/fulfilling the mission. He then asked each member to discuss with another how they might concretely describe that relationship in terms of their own group. That is, how do they support the overall mission?

He then reminded members of both their responsibilities (both as spelled out in the Covenant, as well as their responsibilities vis-a-vis student care [Grievance Procedure, attached]). And then he went over some of the privileges/rights accorded to members of the DURC. [These are covered briefly in the attached DURC FAQs.]

Gary also passed out “table tents” identifying each group as a member of the DURC, and asked that they be displayed whenever the groups are tabling. If you were not at one of the meetings, contact Gary to get your tent.
• DURC’s place in the University. Gary noted that his office is located within Student Life, and, therefore, has certain standards that ought be addressed/met. In general, student learning and development is at the center of what the office is about. He shared with the members the appropriate “Student Learning and Development Outcomes” appropriate to Campus Religious and/or Spiritual Programs [at the bottom of the Vision/Mission sheet], and asked members to discuss how their ministries/programs fit within the category of Student Learning/Development.

• DURC’s role as a council: Gary asked members to consider how they wanted to be with, and for, each other, challenging them to think about ways that they might collaborate a bit more broadly with one another. Ideas included supporting another group’s ministry (such as WorldDiner); a symposium at which members of groups might be able to address their various perspectives on an issue; an all-Christian gathering; and a joint service-project.

7. Other/Closing
• Kristi Gessler asked about programming (other than the Issue Alley) around the Debate. After some discussion, the idea that had the most traction was Gary’s “Sticky Wall”. The idea was that the “wall” could move from building to building with provocative questions (perhaps discipline-specific) related to the election. Not only would there be a question for discussion, but also a space for “So What?” responses. A photo (or more) would record all the responses before the wall was moved. Gary would identify potential sites. In the meantime, please post potential questions to durc-l@du.edu. Think about questions that might be appropriate for the Law School, Business School, Social Work, Education, International Studies, the sciences, etc.

• Next meeting: Gary will send around some means of discerning the best times for regular meetings.
• Gary closed by thanking the members for all they do to care for the campus community.
University of Denver Religious Council

–General Meeting for all DURC Members

Minutes: October 18, 2012
Hillel House

Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Abby Baumbach; Laura Compton; Charles Gilford; Liza Hanson; Ricky Ketchum; Brittany Johnson; Josh Samet;

Absent: Tom Balma; Grant Chinn; Shawn Cramer; Claude d'Estree; Kristi Gessler; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Jared Searle; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Justin Spicer; Ken Tankersley; Darian Venerable

The meeting began at 10:00 with Gary leading the gathering in a responsive reading of Psalm 122.

The minutes from from prior meetings were not discussed

(Re-)introductions

The meeting continued with self-introductions, followed by some general conversation about how the new quarter was going (pretty well, for most!).

DURC & Food

Gary invited comments about two ideas

1) International House is offering weekly “Community Hours” and seeks sponsors to help publicize. There is no cost involved, just a “get people there” helping hand. The DURC folks thought that this would be a good idea -- in the Winter Quarter.

2) Gary recalled that, at a prior institution, the DURC-equivalent had an annual breakfast with the university administrators. In response to the question, should we do that at DU, the answer was a resounding “YES!” Gary will work on something for next fall.

“Chaplain’s Corner” Agenda Items

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<td><strong>Religion &amp; Violence:</strong> Haider Khan—”Spirituality contra Fetishism” Oct 18 (Noon, Cyber Café)</td>
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<td><strong>Creepy Critters for Kids</strong> (Bridge Event): Oct 22-25</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Religion &amp; Violence:</strong> John Calvert—”Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood” Oct 24 (Noon, Cyber Café)</td>
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<td><strong>Book Discussion—East of Denver:</strong> Nov 13 (Noon, Commerce Room)</td>
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<td><strong>Religion and the Military:</strong> Nov 15 (4:30 pm, Cyber Café)</td>
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Other Items for Discussion

Not many, although Liza Hanson of The Foundation reported that their group was working on a panel discussion around the issue of homelessness. When more information was available, she’d pass it on.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 15, 10:00am. Liza volunteered to bring the Psalm!
University of Denver Religious Council

–General Meeting for all DURC Members–
Minutes: January 17, 2013
Hillel House

Present:  Gary Brower – Chaplain;  Daniel Brown, Laura Compton; Liza Hanson; Kelli Hayes; Br. John Ignatius; Josh Samet; Jared Searle; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski

Absent:  Tom Balma; Abby Baumbach; Grant Chinn; Shawn Cramer; Claude d'Estree; Kristi Gessler; Charles Gilford; Brittany Johnson; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Ricky Ketchum; Ken Tankersley; Darian Venerable

Guest:  Sarah Scherer

The meeting began at 10:00 with Laura leading the gathering in a reading o, and reflection on, Psalm 91.

The minutes from from prior meetings were not discussed

(Re-)introductions

The meeting continued with self-introductions, followed by some general conversation about how folks spent their break (if they had one!).

DURC & Food

Gary updated folks on the International House weekly “Community Hours”. They have changed their format, and wish to have the “sponsors” bring something cultural/educational so the guests receive something “value-added”. We brainstormed a bit, and decided to float the idea of piggy-backing on the Foundation’s PB&J making. Gary would send this idea to I-House and report back.

Sarah Scherer

Gary introduced Sarah Scherer, who is an Iliff student working with the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life. She asked the question of those present: “What gets you up in the morning to do campus ministry?”. The answers were rich and varied, mostly having to do with the relationships that are formed with students, seeing their growth as people of faith and character.

Religious Preference Data

Gary had intended on shaving more conversation about the religious preference data, but we ran out of time. He will invite a sociology scholar who works on religion and youth to be with the group next time to help decipher the data, as well as give some ideas about the rise of the “Nones”.

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<td>• Gather at the Table: Jan 29 (7:00 pm - Community Room, Craig Hall) and 30 (noon - NPD)</td>
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<td>• Interfaith Fiesta:  Feb 7 (5:00 pm)</td>
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Other Items for Discussion

None
Next meeting: Thursday, February 21, 10:00 am at Hillel
Present: Gary Brower – Chaplain; Abby Baumbach; Daniel Brown, Shawn Cramer; Liza Hanson; Fr. John Ignatius; Josh Samet; Jared Searle; Nate & Brittany Ramirez

Absent: Tom Balma; Grant Chinn; Laura Compton; Claude d'Estree; Kristi Gessler; Charles Gilford; Kelli Hayes; Brittany Johnson; Fr. Andrew Kearns; Ricky Ketchum; Rabbi Yossi Serebryanski; Ken Tankersley; Darian Venerable

The meeting began at 10:00 with Gary leading the gathering in a reading of, and reflection on, Psalm 121.

The minutes from prior meetings were not discussed.

Welcomes/Celebrations/Departures/Updates

We began by noting changes in folks’ lives/situations:

- Fr. John Ignatius -- Was ordained a priest on May 18
- Liza -- became a parent (and brought the child!).
- Shawn -- became a parent (again); noted a paradigm shift in how Cru was approaching its work at DU; Chad Stewart was leaving DU responsibilities to work with folks downtown.
- Abby -- first year at DU “rocked her world”
- Daniel -- noted that Denver United was building -- a transition; announced that Justin Spicer and family would be moving to plant a church in Costa Rica
- Nate & Brittany -- introduced themselves as the new representatives of “The J Project” out of Potter’s House
- Josh -- announced he was leaving Hillel to work with Israel Study Tour (IST) Director through the Colorado Agency for Jewish Education
- Kelli Hayes sent a “regrets” email after the meeting. In it she also announced that she had resigned her position with International Neighbors’ Network. As we know more about her replacement, we’ll share that information.

Ideas for the 2013-14 Academic Year

We then entered into a general discussion of two questions:

1) What more would you like to know about the University?
   - Chaplain’s overall role (why was position established)
   - How does DU work (bureaucracy tree)
   - Logistics (booking rooms: eligibility/responsibility)
   - Connection with Residential Life Staff (Orientation)
   - Reminder of expectations
   - Partnership possibilities with DU Programming Board

2) What can we do together that would enhance the students’ experience?
   - Concert
   - Candles and Lights in respective traditions
   - Program around Religious Holidays
   - Program around Religious Texts
   - “Meet and Greet”
• Homeless Awareness Week
• Hunger Banquet
• Spring Break Service Trip (w/ Credit!)

“Chaplain’s Corner” Agenda Items

| No real agenda! | BUT THANK YOU! |

Other Items for Discussion

How can DURC folks be informed about, and help with, student crises/deaths? Gary will work on this!

Next meeting: mid-August. Stay tuned!