



**Building Resistance through Narratives of Resilience:
Critical Race & Queer Theory Monthly Group
(Closed caucus space for student of color)**

Proposed Motion: Closed caucus space from students of color to meet monthly

Sponsor: Abby Ramos Vice President for Diversity

Persons of Contact: Dreya Williams -they/them/theirs- Andreya.williams@wwu.edu

Guest Speaker: NA

Date: October 27th - May 31st (Monthly)

Attached Document: NA

Background & Context:

The goal of this group is for students of color to build a sustainable and strong community where they can discuss their lived experiences in relation to history and current events. As well as write, theorize, and come together in a space where they are able to look at colonialism, neoliberalism, capitalism, and imperialism to see how it currently coincides with power structures that marginalize people of color.

Summary of Proposal

The group will meet monthly and discuss 2-3 different forms of text or medium that will range from poems and videos to thirty page essays or excerpts. Students will come together to talk about their experiences in higher education, lived experiences, and how the given theory traces back to their current lives. Through the monthly meetings students of color will build connections with each other, theorize, and potentially produce work that brings their truths to light. This proposal is asking for the board to approve a closed caucus space for students of color only, so that we can bring this group to light.

Fiscal Impacts:

This group will require printing and food costs so that the students are able to have access to the documents as well as food to snack on. This proposal is **not** requesting any financial support from the board as the Ethnic Student Center budget has the funds to cover the costs all year.

Rationale

Many students of color lack access to ever learning about their histories in a classroom. For those that are lucky enough to gain access to a text on their identity, they are still reading and absorbing it within a predominately white classroom. Only to later be tested or required to write a paper on the material. Some folks of color are in majors such as STEM, recreation, and English to list a few and will never have time in their schedules to take a “Asian American experience” or “African American politics” ten week course. This group serves as a space for students of color to come together monthly to discuss various critical race and queer theory writings with other students of color.

It is important that this space be closed to only students of color so that they may speak freely and openly without worrying about having to educate, be tokenized, or potentially hear harmful or racist remarks from

non-students of color. Classroom spaces as well as this campus are dominated by white students, and this group is one of the rare spaces where students of color can come, learn, and heal together.