Introduction of facilitator Leon Lukić by Chris Im

Ground rules

What does term multicultural mean to you?

• Chapman is a homogenous space. Multicultural center is for everyone from different backgrounds. It is difficult to mix with different groups due to dominant straight white culture. Multicultural means diversity, different groups, people voicing their opinion instead of consistently being silence.
• Hearing different people’s background and embracing people’s different backgrounds and figuring how you can relate to their culture, and bringing that back to your community. Embrace it and tell other people about it. Ethnicity, middle class and lower class. Main word is embrace in terms of multicultural.
• Been focusing on external factors but a big factor is internal. What do you identify with, embracing personal identity and sharing that.
• Multicultural means to understand that everyone is Chapman. “I Am Chapman” exhibit is example. White people also have a cultural identity. Intersections of identity.
• Different but together. Came to college to experience other things, such as other cultures. Other cultures are being drowned out and cannot be experienced. Conversations not being had.
• Going off of different but still together. People assume being multicultural is only hanging out with your own culture. Understanding everyone’s culture and bond even further.
• The student definition of multicultural center is different than Doti’s definition.
• Student: Not really answering questions but posing another. When people hear word multicultural, people assume black people are going to be together in a room. Where is that coming from? Why has the word multicultural become something that means black people and Latino people not what the word means, which is “more than one culture”? Read article by student: people are not considering other cultures other than black and Latino.
• Students need to be careful on placing blame on specific students. Asking questions why is not what we need to be focusing on.
• We are defining culture as a very stereotypical thing. People have mindset of what culture is supposed to be. Culture is so much more than where you come from. This needs to address this.
• Main culture is scared and uncomfortable to deal with these issues. If someone is a privileged white person it is hard to come to terms with fact that this is changing. May feel that if center is built they feel as if they will just be blamed even more. This is reason white people may not participate as much. Usually same people who participate in every event. Think about how to bring more people and different people to these events.
• Leon: ground rules, avoid generalizations of groups of people, bring back to question
• Addressing someone who feels out of place in multicultural center: feels as though that is ignorant. Multicultural centers are place to educate them on what that center is for. No one should feel isolated in a multicultural center
• Education is very important. My job as a student is to educate my friends and family. Embracing I am Chapman. Multicultural is being able to love my culture and love my identity. Center is where it is a safe place to be myself and share myself. Blend in with other people on campus. I feel unable to express myself on campus. Center would be a place where I could go. A safe place, safer haven.

What would a multicultural center mean for you?

• Safe space, very important to have on campus. Representation that administration understands what students want and need and is responding to it. Doti’s definition on multicultural does not mentioned those aforementioned ideas. If it were built it would make a lot of students happy.
• Very emotional thing for this student to discuss: been wanting this center since before she came here. Was ready with annotated document to fight. Cannot mention specifics will talk after if wanted.
• College is a time for students to be provided resources that help foster their identity - our campus does not have these resources
• Not an idea of us and them. Everyone is welcome in a multicultural center. Every student has some culture of their own. No us and them. Place for identity to foster. That is what college should be. College in itself should be its own multicultural center. That is lacking here at Chapman. No us and them we are all global citizens
• Center would benefit everyone, is for everyone. Place where you can go to learn and enjoy. Celebration of all cultures. Why do people associate race with culture/ needs to be discussed. Notion is supported because Doti is associating colorblindness with multiculturalism. Center is celebration of identities, gender, nationalism, and place for everyone. Need to let everyone know they may enjoy it. Safe space for everyone.
• Doti’s point of talking about all dialogues on every part of campus. Yes we should have it on every part of campus not just a center. But the point of the center is not to be the only place to have these discussions. Center will be up to students. Manifestation very different on every university. Multicultural center is umbrella for system we can put in place. Doesn’t necessarily need to be called multicultural center. It is mostly the concept of such a place that is necessary.
• Chapman needs to prioritize multicultural education.
• Students cannot start having multicultural dialogues on campus until there is a place on campus where they can start learning about them and be educated to start having those discussions. Large lack of resources on campus. Trying to join all social justice club not possible with schedule, but a center would make it a lot easier to be educated on such topics.
• Perception of Chapman from outside would greatly improve if there were more resources. Student is from Orange. Perception is very low from the outside. Multicultural center would make community realize that Chapman is open to all culture.
• Having a multicultural center gives resources to be global citizen.
• Doti said multicultural center would separate people in multicultural atmosphere. Reality is conversation is not happening anywhere else. Need space to have these conversations. Conversation is currently not happening so this will not change until more resources are provided. Multicultural center isn’t necessarily a building. Can honestly be a classroom. It is an idea, doesn’t necessarily need to be physical space.
Ironic that this is discussed as something that will split people up. Of all the things at Chapman this is the thing that would least split people up. Already are divided between sororities, fraternities, and clubs.

Have Fish Interfaith Center. Amazing resource for spiritual needs. Even if there is room in that building for multicultural center could be another safe space just like that. Similar to taking on Fish Interfaith Center and building off of that for a multicultural center

Multicultural center is an idea. When Doti says he’s opposed to it it sounds like he will not give resources to supporting individuals.

Heard there weren’t resources used a lot. Curious what resources everyone things a multicultural center will provide. Lot of people have mentioned a safe space but what we are doing now seems to provide that. What kind of resources would a center provide that we cannot do already in clubs?

No place on campus to have conversation in its entirety. Currently have groups that people may feel safe with their own identity but only because we have managed to create a space for them. The resources will create a space to allow these conversations to occur and would be another place to learn on this campus and learn about peers.

In terms of resources, biggest one would be a support system with a bunch of people that are there to encourage us to do what we want. Sign of unity, progress and a support system. A place to be exposed to things you haven’t been exposed to in your life. Place where someone can be proud to have these conversation. Didn’t know about this event until an hour before.

Want a physical space because cultural clubs on campus do not have a space to hold meetings. Frustrating to create safe space when there is not physical space.

Relating to Interfaith Center: beautiful space for religions to be shared. Adds unity. Having physical space will less ghettoize campus because otherwise student think “Oh, black student meet here, and latino club meets here.”

At gay and lesbian centers, pamphlets available with information. Resources is not only the center but actual counselors. People who have been through experiences before are there for advice. Meet teachers. Place with physical pamphlets and people such as teachers with advice.

Provide not only a community and education, but also financial resources and academic resources for students in a centralized location. Takes away the burden of having to search out these resources.

Appreciate question about resources. Not easily to vocalize it usually. Multicultural center takes all clubs and put it in one place. Do not have to struggle to find place to have these types of conversations.

Tactical resources such as low amount of ethnic minorities on campus or even faculty that have curriculum for these types of minorities. Having physical counselors and physical space with tactically help diversity quota needed for Chapman.

People say ignorance is culprit. In terms of resources that kind of education and communication. Rarely do these clubs have collective meeting where all the different cultures are coming together to talk.

Multicultural Center important. Felt like he was lied to. Chapman pamphlets book had diversity in bold. Finally came here and did not see that representation. Felt betrayed. Didn’t like it. The way it is talked about seemed like diversity would be a bigger deal. Place where ideas can be expressed.

As far as resources it is an organized place of learning. People are trained in certain things to help student. If student is having identity crisis, wants to go to place where people can help her with these specific issues place to learn just like CDC, academic advising.
• Chris: on S.G.A. side, very difficult to find place to even have this conversation. Person who walked by with loud cart is prime example of why multicultural center is important, to have a space where student can have such conversations as we are now.

• Space to hold cultural events. Guest speakers, presentation, plays. So much competition for those types of places on campus and multicultural aspect is low priority for such spaces currently.

• People who oppose multicultural center because we should be responsible for going out to talk to people. But not everyone want to answer such questions. multicultural center can be resource for such education.

• Students should not have to be a resource for students based on their identity - students of a specific race should not be expected to speak on behalf of the entire race and/or be the primary source of diversity education on our campus.

• Hate being only black student in class. Difficult when topics such as slavery come up, don’t know how to respond. Doesn’t have answers for all questions. Multicultural center can have resources to have answers for such questions. Other students all look at this student.

• Leon says if student is being made to be a resident authority based on perceived or actual identity, it can and should be reported.

• Education is important for not just the good parts but the bad parts as well. Racism is still an issue today. Multicultural Center is place to go to have discussions.

How did Doti’s comment about Chapman’s campus being multicultural center resonate with you? What behaviors have you seen that support or oppose this?

• Become a joke of sorts. “This is such a white campus” feels as though it was poor choice of wording. Doti should step out of presidential role and educate himself on what we are asking for.

• Utopian idea. Maybe one day we will get to that point but currently we are not. Doti is not doing much to promote the whole campus being a multicultural center. Not a lot is being done to fix the problem.

• Would be great if everyone was standing on campus available to share info about culture. Need a place to start otherwise such an idea is not possible.

• Club being started called Multicultural Enterprise. Want to communicate that there are things we can do that is not just talking or blogging. Not only was student ashamed, insulted and confused by article but was saddened by the ignorance. Blatantly how tracks were trying to be covered. Wants to show that is not how ignorance needs to be.

• In Doti’s response, quote of MLK was insulting. Glorifying certain aspects of his philosophies. MLK did advocate for such a thing as we are. Offended that one can just throw MLK’s name into things and not be considered a racist.

• Interesting when Doti accused a girl for being racist for wanting more professors to look like her. You can be treated differently from anything. People classify this student for being small. Different to learn from mentors that have gone through experiences that you are likely to deal with. Didn’t agree with Doti’s approach for calling people racist for wanting a mentor that may have been through experiences you may go through.

Regardless of how you feel about a Multicultural Center, what would you like to see in response to students in the article who said they feel other-ed, alone, and unsafe on Chapman’s campus?

• Students will forget that this is an issue and that this is going on. School should show support for this topic. Don’t want this to be a fad.
- Whether or not center is built, we should make a place our own where student meet every week. Student take it into their own hands and create a safe space so students can come to be educated. Find a place to make a statement. Hey this is our safe space and we are not going anywhere.
- Breaking Ground diversity trainings. Get student who are not naturally inclined to go to such events to go attend.
- Continuing dialogue. This forum is such a great idea. See the same discussion continued. Bring in faculty to have similar talks and event. Almost building our own multicultural center. Realistically building may not happen this year or next year but it could happen someday.
- Diversity sessions for orientation. Need student to go through such a thing when they come to school here so students know how to make Chapman a safe space for one another. Why is Healthy Panther mandatory where students learn how to practice safe sex and safe drinking, but not anything about culture and diversity? We should not have Faces of America.
- Social activism, not going to an event just to seem cool, make voices heard. Instead of undie runs we should have everyone embrace one another in clothes. Embrace cultures not just party life.
- Like administration to talk about this and get a little more education. Stand behind ideas that students are standing for. Giving professors of color tenure. Having something such as Healthy Panther in terms of multicultural educations. There are currently resources for students if you need them.
- Issue has long history. Only one approach taken. Organic change from within. Students are defining atmosphere that Chapman should be. It will become something students demand from Chapman. Weekly dialogue, weekly support system. Not just within Chapman but also the surrounding community needs such resources. Starting it at Chapman and then expanding it outward.
- Student would like a building. Has friends of all religions. Atheist friends went to religious institution even though it’s not something they would typically do. If building is there it would attract people to simply walk though.
- Could there be a way to collaborate with Fish Interfaith to set up mock Multicultural Center or room. Just to have some place that could be rented out. Use fire for our favor and making a place for our use. An interim room.
- Chris: That is a possibility, but a lot of what people have said we want education we want resources. What does that look like? Should we go out and hire someone?
- Baby steps are necessary. Start bringing people in. Fundraising on our own. Start in some place and attract people. It will bring attention for bigger space.
- Would like to have S.G.A. push for more formal collaboration and networks. Actively collaborate with other schools that do have multicultural centers and such resources.
- Would center include disability resources? Student could not go upstairs in North Morlan to visit friend since there are no resources.
- Services office location identified by Leon
- Get staff involved with multicultural center and move on from there.
- Huge gap between different faculties’ educations on race. Faculty member singled out only black student. Diversity training for faculty as well. We put faculty on high pedestal and so they need to be educated so that can be stopped.
- Alum directly involved in 2005 events: this group needs to go out and reach out to the people not in this room. Never know when a light bulb will go off in someone mind. Also, there will be people who will not understand. Keep the momentum going, keep dialogue going. Network of alumni that are supportive of multicultural center. Change can happen and we can reach people.

Forum Adjournment: 11:46pm