

Minutes
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
Diversity Committee Meeting
406 Wallace Hall
October 13, 2004

Members Present: Katherine Allen, Richard Burian, Jean Elliott, April Few, Cathy Hudgins, John Husser, Neal King, Ann Kilkelly, Bob Leonard, Peggy Meszaros, Rhonda Owen, Fred Piercy, Kris Tilley-Lubbs, Janet Sawyers

Welcome and Call to Order – Bob Leonard opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Change to 9/15/04 Minutes – Bob Leonard stated that Toni Calasanti asked that the minutes from the last meeting be changed to reflect her statement that the P&T constitution for our College falls short because there is a "lack of provision about serving consecutive terms" on the Committee.

Updates

- Faculty Senate response to inclusion of diversity in new on-line FAR – Ann Kilkelly stated that this subject has not been discussed with the Faculty Senate yet, but she will bring it up at the next meeting.
- College Gathering (Summit) – Katherine Allen and Ann Kilkelly distributed a draft of a flyer for the College Gathering and Workshop and asked fellow Committee members for their input. The following suggestions were made:
 - Change the time from 1:00-3:00 p.m. to 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 - In the second line, add the word "together". It should read: "A Gathering and Workshop For Those Who Work Together in the..."
 - Add under the title: (First of a Series)
 - Change the sentence from "We are purported to have the most active College diversity committee on campus" to "We have a long history of activism and leadership in diversity".
 - List some of the diverse programs within the College such as Women's Studies, Black Studies...
 - Invite/involve graduate students.
- Diversity Research Conference and Initiative: Janet Sawyers distributed an announcement concerning the Mid-Atlantic Conference on the Scholarship of Diversity. The conference will be held March 17-18, 2005 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. The handout listed a website for more information: <http://www.conted.vt.edu/macsd/>. Janet asked committee members to send her names of people that might want to serve as panel members during the Conference.
- Mentoring Meetings: Fred Piercy stated that the second Mentoring Meeting will be 10/15/04. The topic will be Promotion and Tenure. Dean Niles spoke at the first Mentoring Meeting.
- Diversity Scholarship Grants Program: Peggy Meszaros sent an email to winners around the first week of October.

Identification of key issues/potential initiatives to address in forum discussion:

- Diversity and Curriculum Dean:
 - LuAnn Gaskill will be asked to discuss faculty search outcomes, and also her role as the College's diversity liaison, at the November meeting. Dean Niles may also be asked to discuss diversity issues at the November meeting.
 - Bob Leonard shared his observation that, in Universities where minority students continue on to graduation, the Deans are actively involved with the students.

- Inclusion/Social Climate: Bob Leonard stated that Ben Dixon is working on standards of inclusion and also the social climate. Bob encouraged our Committee to be involved with this.

Listening post on campus issues and hotspots:

- German Club – Members expressed concern about the German Club's exclusion of women and minorities, especially since the Club's facilities are frequently rented for College and University functions. Members agreed that research needs to be done concerning the Club and its rights. John Husser volunteered to do this research. Members suggested that CLAHS boycott the German Club, and encourage other Colleges to do the same.
- NAACP Office – Members expressed outrage concerning the recent vandalism of the VA Tech NAACP Office. April Few suggested writing an "action letter" to let the University and surrounding community know that this type of behavior cannot be tolerated. April will check with the Black Caucus to see what type of action it plans to take.

The October 13, 2004 meeting was adjourned around 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 10, at 10:00 in 406 Wallace Hall.

Minutes submitted by:
Rhonda Owen
Administrative Assistant, CLAHS