

CLAHS Diversity Committee Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2008
Corrected and approved, March 31, 2008

Present: Fred Piercy, Bob Leonard, Dave McKee, Marjorie Norton, Rachel Holloway, Jean Elliot, Rick Shingles, Jennie Reilly, Yasuo Miyazaki, Jane Abraham

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

Minutes from February 18 were approved.

Jennie Reilly of the Office of American Disabilities Act (ADA) presented information about the ADA office. The office's role is to insure the University is in compliance with ADA. The law states there is to be a coordinator. The ADA office is located in Kent Square. Some of their activities include employee accommodations, department coaching, consultation, program access, workshops, review policies and procedures to insure they are in compliance, mediation, and conflict resolution. Usually employees come in because of performance issues. For employees, medical and psychological disabilities are the fastest growing types of disabilities. There is an assistive technology lab in Torgerson that provides special software that can organize thoughts, scan and read aloud, recognize voice and print words, raise lines of maps for visually impaired, translate Word documents into Braille, and more. There was discussion on what the role of the diversity committee could be with ADA office: get the word out of its existence and services, list it as a resource for candidates looking for positions, put on department and diversity web sites, include information in each department handbook, and if having an event put a statement in information about accessibility. Someone suggested ADA print some stickers and cards that could be placed around department areas. ADA does have brochures that feature its services. ADA also has a small central budget to assist with cost of accommodations. Employees should not have to pay for accommodations.

Update on Departmental Diversity Grant Program and establish review panel. RFP is out, and committee members are encouraged to pursue submissions. Jane Abraham, Yasuo Miyazaki, and Rosa Mayorga have volunteered to be on the review panel. If anyone else is interested they should let Bob know. Fred Piercy will contact members.

Update on development of CLAHS goals and strategies for diversity. Subcommittee has begun to review.

Update on diversity in curriculum discussion. Marjorie Norton is the diversity committee liaison. She stated that there has been zero discussion on this issue. The diversity committee would like to see many courses offered not just one. The Office of Multicultural Affairs now offers a diversity certificate program and they are identifying courses. We need to stay in conversation with the College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee about a diversity requirement and updating the website to indicate what courses are offered each semester.

Review steps for developing next year's committee. Usually Bob sends out a memo asking current diversity committee members if they want to continue. If someone steps down then it is important to get a replacement. We have not coerced or pressured departments to have a representative, but right now there is a representative for each department.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.