

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary  
June 21, 2007

The following members were in attendance: Yolonda Barnes, Christy Brewer, Mike Cairns, Matthew Eickhoff, Susan Fogarty, Karen GreenBay, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Russell Leonard, Eunice Merwin, David Pilgrim, Todd Stanislav, Susan Starkey, Luzia Tartari, Troy Tissue, and Leroy Wright.

Absent: Karyn Benner, Matt Chaney, Kent Sun, Tyrone Collins, Micala Evans, Don Green, Scott Heron, James Mikula.

The meeting summary from May 17, 2007 meeting was approved.

**FSU Summer University** - Warren Hills and David Pilgrim reported that Summer University's Diversity Day was very well received. David Pilgrim observed that people want to talk about diversity at Ferris. Other session facilitators mentioned that their sessions went very well, had good discussions and some had received emails.. Warren stated that on-line evaluations are slowly coming in; it was suggested that another campus-wide notice be sent out as a reminder. David received a call from Dr. Frank Hale expressing his gratitude to everyone involved in his visit to FSU. Dr. Hale commented that he was treated very nicely and he loves Ferris. Certificates and thank notes were handed out by David to facilitators thanking them for their help. He would also like to thank Dan and Carma Burcham for opening their home to us for the Hale's Welcome Reception.

**2008 Equity Conference** - Todd Stanislav reported that the dates for the 2008 Equity Conference will be March 30-April 2. Todd and John Thorp did attend the meeting in Lansing on June 7<sup>th</sup>, where Todd inquired about host institutions receiving reduced registration costs—unfortunately, they do not. Todd and John would like to keep the focus of the conference on “Diversity and Equity in the Classroom”. The next step will be to create a planning committee. The Equity Conference is a wonderful opportunity for Ferris State University to move forward on issues relating to diversity in classrooms. DPC members were asked to volunteer for this planning committee.

**2007 Bus Tour** – The Bus Tour was a success and plans are being made for the 2008 Bus Tour. The DPC believes that planning should be begin.

**Division/College Diversity Plans Update** – David has met with some of the Divisions/Colleges letting them know his expectations, namely, meet on a regular basis, talk about diversity, develop systems of accountability and use the Diversity Office as a resource.

**Diversity Town Hall Meetings/Speaker Series/Circles** – David would like to see Student Diversity Circles started at Ferris. Diversity circles will consist of 8-12 students representing different organizations discussing diversity issue. He envisions these circles in permanent groups. There was much discussion on how to get students to attend. The consensus of the Committee was that the Student Government Association should be involved. Is it possible to

link the Town Hall meetings with the Office of Multicultural Student Services *Hot Topics* series? The DPC suggested open forums to discuss the Diversity Plan.

The Diversity Office would like to sponsor a Diversity Speaker Series for FY08. The Diversity office will contribute \$10,000 towards several Diversity type events. Some members felt that a better idea would be having a Diversity Mini-Grant Program—a person could use the funds for a speaker or for another diversity initiative.

**Campus Climate Survey** – Kristen Salomonson will attend the next DPC meeting to present proposed Campus Climate Survey information. The DPC discussed what they hoped would be the outcomes from a climate survey.

#### **Diversity Events/Emerging Events**

- **Idlewild Music Festival – July 6-8, 2007**
- **Hispanic Heritage Month – Sept. 15- Oct. 15, 2007**
- **National Diversity Day October 5, 2007**
- **World Language Day – Date TBA – Luzia Tartari will be working on this**