

Ferris State University
Academic Senate Diversity Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, November 9, 2004

Members present: Carole Jones, Katherine La Pietra, Russ Leonard, Denise Mitten, Karen Nash, Rachel Prusi (Student Rep.), John Thorp, Genevieve West.

The meeting started with discussion of the material on Speaker Tim Wise that Genevieve found and distributed. The two subjects that attracted the most support from the group were "Politics of Prejudice: Racial Scapegoating" and "Collateral Damage" (which deals with the world situation after 9/11).

- Denise Mitten brought up the possibility of sharing expenses (for appearance and other needs) with a neighboring institution such as: Aquinas, Central, Western and Hope College (all of whom, including Ferris have had Mr. Wise as a speaker sometime since 1999 [as indicated from the information]).
- Denise and Genevieve raised the concern that the 9/11 speech might be considered offensive by groups on campus—including those who are concerned about the Diversity Committee existence/purpose in general.
- Schedule concerns were raised by John Thorp including:
Are we going to ask Mr. Wise to speak to more than one group in a day?
Do we aim for a Wednesday evening plus Thursday morning visits to classes or with students?
- Russ Leonard supported the choice of "Politics of Prejudice: Racial Scapegoating" as the selected subject.
- Expenses are estimated as \$3500 plus travel for a total estimate of \$4,500.

The final committee consensus was the selection of "Politics of Prejudice: Racial Scapegoating" as the subject and that each committee member would ask their respective Deans for \$500 toward expenses and report successes or failures back to Genevieve before Thanksgiving Break. John Thorp pledged \$500 toward the project from the Department of Social Sciences. Rachel Prusi will approach the Student Government for funding at tonight's meeting.

On other issues, Genevieve reported that Kevin Miller has finished the Timme Grant for the summer '05 NCORE conference and that we were just waiting on a reply.

Rachel Prusi asked the committee for suggestions and assistance WILL (Women in Leadership & Learning) conference that she is helping to plan. She is looking for suggestions for content and possible speakers or panel members. They are pursuing Governor Granholm as one possibility. Other people suggested were authors Margaret Atwood, Sarah Stewart and Patricia Pollaco and Wendy Samuels (Social Work).

The next meeting will be in February and is scheduled to be held in the Jim Crow Museum.

The meeting was concluded at 11:50

