

Ferris State University
Academic Senate Diversity Committee
Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Members present: Mike Berghoef, Carolyn Cook, Katherine La Pietra, Denise Mitten, Karen Nash, Cheryl Thomas, Cami Sanderson, John Thorpe, Ange'le Truss (student representative), Genevieve West.

The meeting began at 11:00. Last year's chair, Genevieve West convened the meeting. We introduced ourselves and new committee members were welcomed.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 3, 2005 meeting were approved.

Elections: Genevieve suggested that we elect the new chair and secretary. Cami Sanderson was unanimously elected chair. Denise Mitten was elected secretary.

Tim Wise: Committee members made general comments about the Tim Wise program. Response was favorable and there was outstanding representation from the university community (850 in attendance). Our budget was \$4,500.00 and our expenses were \$4,667.30. Genevieve will request the \$167.30 difference from the Assoc VP. Thank you letters are being sent out as soon as the accounting is done and all the money has come in from the various colleges and offices. The following will be thanked – Arts and Sciences, Education, Business, Technology, Allied Health, University College, Dept. of Social Sciences, VPAA, Student Government, Rick Harmsen, and Deb Vance and Gayle Driggers.

Mission Statement: We reviewed the mission statement and objectives and agreed that everyone will read and think about it in preparation for discussion at our next meeting. Committee members indicated that diversity could encompass race, ethnicity, religion/spirituality, sexual/affectional preference, able bodiedness and accessibility issues, traditional and nontraditional students. We intend to explore the definition of diversity and look at how other universities address this concept.

Gordon Reinard: We discussed whether or not we thought it would be a match to contract with The Institute for Healing Racism for their program. The committee decided to wait and look at other options, too.

Woodrick Institute: The committee members discussed this racism reduction/training group located in Grand Rapids. Members will decide next time whether or not to check it out to see if it is a better match for Ferris than Reinard's program.

Native American History Month/Minority Student Affairs: November is Native American History month and Genevieve will report at the next meeting current events.

Virtual Resource Center: The Women's Center is a Virtual Resource Center that will be launched this month.

DRUM: This group is suggested as a group the Diversity committee should help bring to Ferris State University. We are all going to look at the website before our next meeting. We might partner with Williams Live and Arts and Sciences.