

## **Ferris State University Diversity Committee Minutes from September 24, 2002 Meeting**

**Members Present:** Sandra Alspach, Ali Abbasabadi, Olukemi Adewusi, Kevin Miller, Tony Baker, Lucy Ngoh, Clayton Rye, Kilman Shin, Joseph Wist,

The meeting began at 11:05, and as its first order of business, Sandra Alspach was elected as chair for the committee.

Sandra Alspach, Lucy Ngoh, and other members who have served on the committee in the past reviewed the history of the Diversity Committee and its role within the university. Past accomplishments of the committee were highlighted, and the committee's importance as a agent for disseminating information to the Ferris State University community was emphasized. The committee reviewed its mission and objectives as set out by the Academic Senate (document available at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/othersrv/diversitycounts/senate.htm>) and particular attention was given to the committee's charge to "coordinate with other diversity initiatives and efforts on campus." To respond effectively to this objective, the committee will invite speakers to update its members on major diversity-related projects for the year. Members also brainstormed about possible events, projects, and activities that the committee could take on as its major assignment for the 2002/2003 school year.

The committee members next discussed the importance of diversity in Ferris' educational mission, and each member then described his or her experiences with and interests in diversity issues. A wide range of concerns were discussed, including what might be done to increase and retain the university's international student population (on this issue members were particularly concerned about discriminatory tuition rates and whether in-state tuition might be given to international students and student housing issues), maintaining and strengthening Ferris' commitment to students of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, providing for non-traditional student needs, and sustaining the school's history of gender equality.

Speakers for the coming year were discussed, including Raymond Gant, John Thorp, Susan Morris, and Paul Landen. Sandra Alspach and other members were tasked with contacting these individuals to arrange for their appearance at future meetings.

It was agreed that Raymond Gant be included as an ex officio member of the committee and that two student representative be invited to attend future meetings as members of the committee.

Members discussed finding a more convenient location for future meetings and it was agreed that Professor Alspach reserve a room in FLITE for the next the gathering. The meeting adjourned at 11:55.

These minutes were prepared by Kevin Miller ([millerke@ferris.edu](mailto:millerke@ferris.edu)).