

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary

March 19, 2009

The following members were in attendance: Mike Cairns, Matt Chaney, Jim Cook, Shohred Ferdowsi, Susan Fogarty, Scott Herron, Thuy Karafa, Amanda Karel, Janel Lockwood, Pam Meadows, Mary Murnik, David Pilgrim, Fran Rosen, Susan Starkey, Patty Terryn, Troy Tissue, Hurdylyn Woods and Leroy Wright. The following guests were also present: Julie Rudolph, Shelly VandePanne and Todd Baker.

Absent: Yolonda Barnes, Marty Bledsoe, Mike Berghoef, Travis Cervandes, Deb Cox, Don Green, Warren Hills, Sharon Hopper, Russell Leonard, Eunice Merwin-Beck, Jessica Mills, Lyle Mourer, Gretchen Spedowske, Todd Stanislav, Paul Sullivan, Kent Sun, Luzia Tartari and Robbie Teahan.

If you cannot attend a meeting please send a representative.

The meeting summary from February 19, 2009 was approved. Please feel free to send corrections or additions at any time.

Diversity Events –

- March is Women History Month – March 26, 2009 W.I.L.L. Conference, 7p.m. Holiday Inn
- There will be an International Potluck, March 25, 2009, 6p.m. FLITE
- The annual International Festival, will be held April 19, 2009

Diversity in FSUS Classes –

Shelly VandePanne, FSUS Coordinator discussed diversity within the FSUS 100 classes. Shelly explained that the instructors want more resources, and some do not feel comfortable teaching or discussing some diversity issues. If any DPC members would like to be added to the resource list please let Shelly know. David Pilgrim agreed to “train the trainers.”

Faculty/Staff Mini Grants –

Amanda Karel and Fran Rosen reported that the ad-hoc committee met March 3rd and approved three grants. A University wide notice will be sent to announce the recipients and remind the university community of the deadlines.

Cultural Connection –

Janel Lockwood distributed a flier to the DPC members explaining Cultural Connection, a friendship program built for students who want to meet international students and vice versa. American and international students will be paired together in August and the mentor relationship will continue throughout the Fall semester. An application is available in the International Office, due by April 6, 2009. DPC members thought this was a very good idea and wondered if this type of program could be arranged for faculty and staff.

Emerging Issues –

Troy Tissue reported that a new RSO has for Veterans has been started.

Luzia Tartar reported that Bond Hall residents will not be required to have a meal plan for Fall 2009. This will aid in recruiting International students-some of whom would not enroll at Ferris if they have to participate in the meal plans. Bond Hall has kitchen facilities so the student can do their own cooking. Housing officials are willing to work with the International Center on “exception.” These are good developments and resulted, in part, from the meetings between the International Center, Administration and Finance, and the Diversity Office.

Tony Baker invited the DPC members to the Cesar Chavez 2009 Social Justice March, Tuesday, March 31, 2009 in Grand Rapids. Tony distributed a flier with the information for the day’s activities. A bus has been reserved to transport

people from Big Rapids to Grand Rapids. That evening a Community Service Excellence Awards Ceremony will be held and the Diversity Office will cover the cost of the event for any DPC members who would like to attend. If interested let Tony know.

David Pilgrim reported that the results of the HLC faculty/staff survey are available for review; there are many comments about diversity. Survey results will be emailed to DPC members.

David Pilgrim reviewed the Diversity at Ferris 2008 report with DPC members. Please send all relevant reports to the Diversity Office as soon as they are available.