

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary July 19, 2008

The following members were in attendance: Matt Chaney, Mike Cairns, Matthew Eickhoff, Scott Herron, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Amanda Karel, Russell Leonard, Janel Lockwood, Jessica Mills, Pam Meadows, David Pilgrim, Julia Rodriguez, Fran Rosen, Mike Slocum, Gretchen Spedowske, Todd Stanislav, Susan Starkey, Patty Terryn, and Michael Wade.

Absent: Yolonda Barnes, Marty Bledsoe, Jim Cook, Susan Fogarty, Don Green, Sharon Hopper, Eunice Merwin-Beck, Kent Sun, Luzia Tartari, Robbie Teahen, Troy Tissue, Hurdylyn Woods and Leroy Wright.

The meeting summary from June 19, 2008 was approved.

Diversity Events –

- David showed the new Ferris Orientation video that is available on the FSU webpage. He thanked the team who worked on video. The video was an outstanding example of diversity being incorporated into a University product.
- Michael Wade distributed the Office of Multicultural Student Services Fall 2008 Speaker and Performance Series. Among the planned speakers are Professor Griff of Public Enemy and Khalid el-Hakim, Curator of the Black History 101 Mobile Museum. All events are free and open to the public. It was suggested during Black History Month that an open forum be planned. Jessica Mills thanked OMSS for getting the information distributed early and for the great scope of music and speakers.
- Matt Eickhoff reviewed some of the Welcome Week activities; he would like to get the DPC members involved in more of the activities. Matt will send the schedule to DPC members. It was suggested that the DPC host a table at Founders Day with diversity information.

Student Diversity Grant and Faculty/Staff Diversity Grant –

David distributed draft copies of both proposed grant applications. David would like the sub-committee to review documents. These grants will be given on a first come first serve basis. There was much discussion as to how the decision would be made, who could vote from the DPC, and could the members apply. David will look into those options and get back to the group.

Emerging Issue –

Lately there have been Ferris students with Facebook pages that insults against women, African Americans, and others. The DPC discussed how we respond to inappropriate matter posted by FSU students. Michael Wade suggested a possible “Hot Topic” discussion on Facebook. Mike Slocum recommended possible training for faculty/staff. The DPC reviewed several articles that discussed similar concerns at other institutions.

Ferris/Baldwin Partnership –

David distributed a draft document on the Ferris/Baldwin Partnership. This partnership affords the University opportunities to continue existing collaborative efforts and identify new initiatives. The announcement of partnership will be this fall. At present, there are many Ferris staff and faculty who are involved in Baldwin projects, including those from the Michigan College of Optometry, College of Education and Human Services, and the College of Arts and Sciences. The DPC and Diversity Office want to offer support and encouraged to all these people, especially Grant Snider as he works with a camp project for the area.

Diversity Plan Update –

David reported that FLITE has put together diversity work group. David asked the DPC members to look at their diversity efforts and report to the Diversity Office with any dollars spent on Diversity Plan projects. David will be meeting with the Deans' Council to charge them with creating and implementing college diversity action plans. The DPC discussed strategies for getting the work teams more engaged.

Note: If you cannot attend a meeting please send a representative.