

## **Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary October 16, 2008**

The following members were in attendance: Yolonda Barnes, Mike Berghoef, Jes Berndt, Mike Cairns, Matt Chaney, Susan Fogarty, Scott Herron, Thuy Karafa, Amanda Karel, Pam Meadows, Jessica Mills, Lyle Mourer, Mary Murnik, David Pilgrim, Fran Rosen, Jon Shaffer, Gretchen Spedowske, Todd Stanislav, Susan Starkey, Paul Sullivan, Luzia Tartari, Robbie Teahen, Patty Terryn and Hurdylyn Woods.

Absent: Marty Bledsoe, Jim Cook, Don Green, Warren Hills, Sharon Hopper, Russell Leonard, Janel Lockwood, Eunice Merwin-Beck, Kent Sun, Troy Tissue and Leroy Wright.

If you cannot attend a meeting, please send a representative.

The meeting summary from September 18, 2008 was approved.

### **Upcoming Diversity Events –**

October 6-10 – National Coming Out Day

October 15-17 - Black History 101 Mobile Museum, Professor Griff - 9am-5pm

October 21, Election Day Fair, 7-9pm – State and National candidates

October 22 - International Center potluck

October 23 – Students for Obama - The role of race, gender, and religion in politics, 11am-12pm.

October 27 - Students for Obama- Obama's position on major platform issues, 7-8:30pm.

October 28 - Students for Obama - The role of media in elections, 7-8:30pm

### **Emerging Issues –**

Safe Place Project – Mike Berghoef and Jon Shaffer gave the DPC an update on the Safe Place Project. Safe Place was introduced to Ferris about 12 years ago. During those years, staff and student training activities were conducted and (office) signs were distributed. In the mid-1990s a website was developed; however, it remains difficult for visitors access. Presently, the website can be accessed through Mike Berghoef's faculty page. Mike and Jon suggested that Ferris rediscover the "Safe Place Project," meaning, student training at least once a semester, updating signage, and improving the webpage. The URL is [http://www.ferris.edu/faculty/berghoefm/safe\\_place/](http://www.ferris.edu/faculty/berghoefm/safe_place/). The DPC agreed that the Diversity Office should pay for the new signs and add the webpage to its web site. David suggested that a DPC subcommittee of 3-5 people be created to explore how the other fourteen public institutions in the state have approached lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender inclusion on their campuses, especially issues related to partner benefits and a physical center. David will set a meeting with colleagues at Grand Valley State University who worked to get partner benefits for that institution.

OMSS Relocation Committee – The Committee met five times, had two open forums that were very well attended, and continues to meet. No decisions have been made. When a recommendation is reached it will be forwarded to the Academic Vice President and his decision will be announced to the University. As a University, we must get to the point where we can disagree—even passionately, while remaining professional and civil.

Faculty/Staff Grant – The announcement has been made to the University. The following people volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee: Amanda Karel, Wendy Hardy, Enid Carlson-Nagel, Fran Rosen, Paige Clark, and Shawna Mauldin. This committee will meet for the first time in December 2008. The DPC thanks them.

Free Speech – Robbie Teahen distributed a document to DPC that will be placed in the next Academic Affairs Newsletter. It is a well-thought discussion of free speech. The DPC agrees that an open forum on this topic would be a good idea.

Video Recording of Diversity Events – David asked the DPC members to video tape their diversity events. The DPC voted in support of the Diversity Office purchasing a video camera. The camera would be made available to the University community.

First Lady's Attic – David announced that the Attic has a home, Rankin-171. Donations are being accepted at Pete's Cleaners. Patsy Eisler has been the driving force behind this initiative. A Grand Opening will take place in January. Look for more information to come.

Equity Conference 2009 - Todd Stanislav distributed a poster for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held at Oakland University April 5-7, 2009. The DPC would like Ferris to host the conference in 2011. Todd will take that information back to the State Planning Committee.