

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary
February 15, 2007
CSS 302

Present at the meeting were – Abdul Ahmed, Yolonda Barnes, Karyn Benner, Christy Brewer, Mike Cairns, Matt Chaney, Matthew Eickhoff, Susan Fogarty, Karen GreenBay, Scott Herron, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Pat Klarecki, Russell Leonard, Eunice Merwin, David Pilgrim, Todd Stanislav, Kent Sun, Luzia Tartari, Troy Tissue, Patty Terryn. Absent - Tryone Collins, Micala Evans, Don Green, James Mikula, Leroy Wright

The meeting summary for the February 1, 2007 was discussed and approved.

David Pilgrim reviewed the new Diversity Office Website. There were some suggestions for additions and changes, they are listed below;

- Need link from President's page back to Diversity Office Page;
- Update members page;
- Matt Eickhoff will send updated information for *Organization* page;
- It was suggested that a manual/handbook on positive ways to discuss topics;
- On Penal Code page, possibility of adding hints on how to speak without offending;
- Add form to fill out a diversity complaint;
- Karyn Benner will see if she has some photos for the website.

The DPC discussed the merits of the Diversity Office being in the President's Office. That placement gives the Diversity Office some prestige but it implies a lack of autonomy. David assured that Committee that he would be a strong advocate for diversity. Also, the Committee noted the dearth of photographs on campus that show integrated groups. The ones that exist are mainly sports-related. The DPC resolved that the emerging Ferris Diversity Plan should be the main thrust of the organization.

Subcommittee Reports

Campus Climate – Eunice Merwin reported that the committee is trying to get a understanding of what the current support is on campus. She also had some concerns about disability signage. David Pilgrim asked her to provide him with a list of the current signage on campus. Pat Klarecki also handed out a document that he has put together on some core value statements from businesses and universities. The Committee had a brief discussion on the core values.

Current Assessment – Mike Cairns reported that the committee is working with Kristen Salomonson. Andy Karafa will forward relevant information to the Diversity Office.

Student Body Diversity – No report

Faculty/Staff Diversity – Warren Hills and Kent Sun reported that some of the numbers are misleading and in different formats which makes analysis difficult. Kent expressed concerns about the willingness of Institutional Research to supply the DPC with the information that is needed.

Diversity Organizations and Activities – Matt Eickhoff and Karyn Benner reported that the group is working on compiling a list of all RSOs. They will be setting up focus groups with students to see what works and what does not. Also, they are working on a list of diversity activities on campus.

Diverse Classrooms – No report

Community Relations – David Pilgrim would like to find out how to get this committee involved in the Town Gown group.

Emerging Events –

One of Ferris' diversity-related strengths is the large number of programs/activities that take place on the main campus. The following is a sampling:

YBBW Fashion Show, Feb. 17th at 7:00 pm, Williams Auditorium
Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Feb. 20th at 8:00 pm, Williams Auditorium
The African Experience, Feb. 20th at 11:00 am, Mecosta Room
Speaker Series: Same Sex Marriage Debate, Feb. 22nd at 7:00 pm, Williams Auditorium
Conversations Amongst Great African Americans, Feb. 22nd at 6:00 pm, Founders Room
Soap Box, Feb. 27th from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, on the Quad (weather permitting)
Language of God and Man, Speaker Liljana Elverskog, Mar. 1st at COB Room 111, 4:00 pm
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.: Women's Suffrage March Re-enactment, Mar. 13th at 5 pm, begins at Masselink Lobby
Rainbow Eagle, Peace Shield Teacher, Mar. 13th at 6:00 pm, Dome Room
Guerilla Girls on Tour, Mar., 13th at 8:00 pm, Williams Auditorium
WILL Conference, Mar. 22nd at 6:00 pm, Holiday Inn
Diversity Conference, Mar. 31st, time TBA, Rankin Center
1st Annual Disability Ball, Mar. 31st at 8:00 pm, location TBA
YBBW Women's Conference, April 14th at 9:00 am, Holiday Inn
International Festival of Cultures, Apr. 15th, at 1:00 pm, Dome Room
Black Greek Council Step Show, Apr. 28th at 7:00 pm, Williams Auditorium

Karyn Benner reported that Dining Services added a rice bar, international spice rack and some international/ethnic food choices and the response from students has been great. However, Luzia noted that International students often have problems finding food that they are accustomed to eating.

Next meeting March 1, 2007.

