

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary  
March 1, 2007  
CSS 302

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

**Special note: The weather was very bad. Classes were cancelled at 11:00 a.m. and non-essential employees were told they could go home.**

Meeting summary was distributed from the February 15, 2007 meeting.

David thanked those that could attend today's meeting. He discussed the Summit on Racism Forum on March 23, 2007 to be held in Grand Rapids at the DeVos Place. If any of the members are interested in attending the Diversity Office will pay the registration fee of \$20.00. Tyrone Collins and Micala Evans are interested in attending.

David reminded the Committee that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Equity within the Classroom Conference is March 24-27, 2007, at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. Todd Stanislav stated that he would like Ferris to host the 2008 Conference with the help of David Pilgrim, the Diversity Planning Committee, and the Diversity Office.

David informed the committee that he would be presenting the Diversity Plan to the Board at the March 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in the Great Lakes. All Committee members are welcome to attend. The members stressed that the Diversity Plan should be a working document, always flexible.

David informed the members that the Diversity Office has ordered some books on diversity that they might find helpful. Committee members are welcome to borrow the books from the office. The office will inform them what books are available. Luzia Tartari mentioned that the Library often holds a library day and maybe we could have a day devoted to diversity. David will speak with Richard Cochran, FLITE Dean, and invite him to one of our meetings.

The DPC discussed the need for an Ombudsman or someone with Ombudsman-like responsibilities. The students on campus need a "one stop shop" to assist with their issues.

Luzia Tartari informed the committee that the Student Ambassador's can video tape activities on campus. Elise Blacklaw is the advisor.

The DPC reviewed the Diversity Plan via the Diversity Office web site. The Committee's recommendations are as follows;

- Remove the wording President and Board letter from the beginning of the Plan. Some members are concerned that it appears that what you are reading is either from the Board/President. It will be added once the letters are received.
- Add links to the Committee member's websites.
- Add student's program to the members list.
- Add to the beginning of the members list that this is the current membership.

## Sub-committee Reports

### Campus Climate

Luzia Tartari reported that the sub-committee is working on obtaining the annual student survey from housing. She will forward information to the committee. In March the sub-committee will be hosting a focus group meeting with the International students. She also mentioned that they would like to do a survey with the RSOs. There was some concern that by focusing on RSOs the survey only gives the views of students who are involved in FSU activities. Karen GreenBay mentioned that the online surveys are helpful. Kent Sun mentioned that the existing surveys may not give accurate assessments.

### Current Assessment

David asked the Committee to look at the list of assessment tools that are in the planning document. Are they all necessary? Are we missing any relevant data? The biggest concern is data-collection. Some DPC members argued that information is treated as currency at Ferris and some staff may be reluctant to share the relevant data. Scott Herron mentioned that incorporating into the University planning documents might be an excellent way of getting data.

### Student Body Diversity

David reported that he had met with the Articulation Department on campus and discovered some important information about recruiting our Native American students. Scott Herron is going to get David a report that he did for Admissions on Native Americans.

The DPC discussed strategies for locating data on minority groups and/or programs that are actively recruiting minorities.

### Faculty/Staff Diversity

No report

### Diversity Organizations and Activities

Channel 7 is currently running programming on diversity. There are a lot of different diversity activities happening on campus we just need to find a clearing house so we can make the campus aware of those events. Leroy Wright and Matt Chaney are interested in hosting television shows.

### Diverse Classrooms

No report

### Community Relations

Ferris and its members do incredible work in the cities that surround its campuses; however, this work is not coordinated or well-documented.

## Upcoming Events

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.: Women's Suffrage March Re-enactment, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm, Masselink

Rainbow Eagle, Peace Shield Teacher, Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, Dome Room

Guerilla Girls on Tour, Mar., 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm, Williams Auditorium

WILL Conference, Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm, Holiday Inn

NICE Conference, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>, time TBA, Rankin Center, **still opening for presenters**

1st Annual Disability Ball, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 pm, location TBA

YBBW Women's Conference, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am, Holiday Inn

International Festival of Cultures, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm, Dome Room

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 15, 2007.