

## Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary May 17, 2007

The following members were in attendance: Yolonda Barnes, Karyn Benner, Christy Brewer, Mike Cairns, Tyrone Collins, Susan Fogarty, Karen GreenBay, Scott Heron, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Pat Klarecki, Russell Leonard, David Pilgrim, Todd Stanislav, Kent Sun, Luzia Tartari, Troy Tissue, and Leroy Wright.

The minutes from the April 26, 2007 meeting were approved with corrections.

Summer University's Diversity Day was discussed. The sessions are to be interactive, allowing participants to discuss what they deem relevant. Facilitators are assigned to each session and the preliminary enrollment numbers look strong. Karen GreenBay raised the issue of technological support. Warren Hills asked all facilitators to inform him if they need computers, projectors, or help from the technology staff.

### Equity Conference

Todd Stanislav reported that the dates for the 2008 Equity in the Classroom Conference will be March 30-April 2. Todd mentioned that he anticipates that a planning or steering committee for the conference will be formed after the June 7 meeting with the other campus representatives (Todd and John Thorp will be attending that meeting). David asked if host institutions receive reduced registration costs. Todd will inquire about this and report back. The Equity Conference is a great opportunity for Ferris State University to move forward on issues relating to diversity in classrooms.

### Bus Tour

Karyn Benner stated that the Bus Tour was successful, meaning, it introduced several audiences of high school students to Ferris State University, it showcased many of Ferris' talented students, and several high school students were enrolled. Tyrone Collins stated that he enrolled a couple of students eligible for the Tuition Incentive Program (TIP). The consensus of the DPC was that the Bus Tour should be conducted again next year—and that the planning for it should begin soon. David will work to make sure that the funding is there for this initiative.

### Division/College Diversity Plans Update

David has asked all Ferris State University divisions to submit rosters of people who will serve on planning/implementation committees. Their charge will be to find ways to extend and implement the Evolving Diversity Plan in their divisions. The DPC spent the bulk of the meeting discussing a range of initiatives, including but not limited to, a Baldwin-Ferris partnership, partnership benefits for gays and lesbians, diversifying employee pools, and addressing racial conflict on campus.

### Diversity Speaker Series and Diversity Conversations

The Diversity Office will sponsor a Diversity Speaker Series with a \$10,000 annual budget. The details of this program will be worked out by the DPC at future meetings. Troy Tissue and Christy Brewer volunteered to lead this effort. Also, David proposed the

idea of campus-wide Diversity Conversations to be held this academic year. He will present a more formal articulation of this initiative at the August meeting.

DPC members will receive information on our next meeting by the end of this week. We are trying to locate a time that better fits members' schedules and we are waiting to hear from several people.