

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary February 21, 2008

The following members were in attendance: Marty Bledsoe, Mike Cairns, Matt Chaney, Jim Cook, Matthew Eickhoff, Susan Fogarty, Karen GreenBay, Scott Herron, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Janel Lockwood, Jessica Mills, David Pilgrim, Susan Starkey, Kent Sun, Patty Terryn, Hurdlynn Woods and Leroy Wright.

Absent: Julie Buryk, Abdul Ahmed, Yolonda Barnes, Tyrone Collins, Micala Evans, Don Green, Russell Leonard, Eunice Merwin-Beck, Zoe Middleton, James Mikula, Todd Stanislav, Luzia Tartari, Robbie Teahen and Troy Tissue,

The meeting summary from January 17, 2008 was approved.

Equity Conference Update – David Pilgrim asked DPC members to attend and for them to encourage their co-workers also. Three students will be doing closing remarks. A copy of the conference's brochure was distributed. A great deal of work has gone in to the planning of this conference. Thanks to Todd for facilitating this planning.

Student Diversity Survey - Thuy Karafa reported on her progress on the survey results. Thuy distributed demographics and cross tabulation data for members to review. She also encouraged members to let her know which reports they would like added to the website. Thuy Karafa also answered questions from the DPC about the results. The bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the results.

Diversity Plan Update – David Pilgrim reported that the Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs/Student Affairs committee has endorsed the Diversity Plan. The Plan will be going before the full Board of Trustees on March 21 for approval. This will be an historic day at Ferris. Once the Plan is approved the DPC direction will change to more action driven. David asked the DPC to consider two of the Plan's goals - #1 establish a committee of 4-5 people who would resolve disputes/concerns between employees on campus; #2 develop a series of diversity lectures on campus. A discussion ensued about the timetable for Academic Colleges to create their diversity action work teams. The DPC came to the consensus that the committee should wait until the March 21, 2009 vote before moving ahead.

Emerging Issues

- Hurdlynn Woods reported that some Ferris students have been discussing the Vagina Monologues on Facebook and have posted "femi-nazi" flyers. It was decided that a "hot topics" event should take place to discuss the Vagina Monologues. Hurdlynn will facilitate the event and Matt Eickhoff will help organize the event. The DPC agreed that follow-up discussions should be planned *before* controversial diversity-related events are held. There is a need to be proactive. The DPC agreed that this would be a way to help sustain productive, proactive discussions about diversity.
- Matt Eickhoff informed the DPC members that the Torchbearer Leadership Awards deadline is next week.

- Janel Lockwood reported that the International Festival of Cultures will be April 13th from 1-5 pm. If you are interested in helping contact Janel. This is one of the most important diversity events of the calendar year.
- Warren Hills reported that Summer University has been set for June 2-4. The themes will be Strategic Planning and Emergency Management.