

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary
June 19, 2008

The following members were in attendance: Yolonda Barnes, Marty Bledsoe, Mike Cairns, Matthew Eickhoff, Susan Fogarty, Sharon Hopper, Amanda Karel, Russell Leonard, Janel Lockwood, Jessica Mills, Pam Meadows, David Pilgrim, Todd Stanislav, Susan Starkey, Patty Terryn, Troy Tissue and Hurdylyn Woods.

Absent: Matt Chaney, Jim Cook, Don Green, Scott Herron, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Eunice Merwin-Beck, Julia Rodriguez, Kent Sun, Luzia Tartari, Robbie Teahen and Leroy Wright.

The meeting summary from April 17, 2008 was approved.

Diversity Events –

Mike Cairns reported that Student Affairs staff retreat will be held August 1, 2008. Their focus will be on diversity issues. Student Affairs has been a leading supporter of diversity efforts at Ferris. David will join them and facilitate discussions about specific diversity initiatives.

Hurdylyn Woods reported that the committee met on the “Wall of Hate” project. At this point most of the work will start when the students return in September. Two new members have been added to the committee: Jessica Mills and Russell Leonard. The DPC discussed some of the issues related to the project. The activity must be well-thought out, well-publicized and evaluated properly. Troy Tissue suggested that some “positive” action be included in the project. Many members of the DPC supported Troy’s suggestion. The DPC strongly encouraged the organizers to be inclusive, especially to include people from Physical Plant, Public Safety, and the Counseling Center.

DPC Retreat –

David asked the DPC members if they were interested in a DPC Retreat to be held in Idlewild during the Jazz Festival, July 10-12, 2008. Patty will send out information and we will see if we have enough interest. This retreat would give the DPC opportunities to focus on several diversity initiatives.

Search Committees –

The DPC members are encouraged to serve on search committees—as diversity advocates. The Academic Deans will be asked to consider strategies to make searches more inclusive. There was a discussion about asking Deans to allow members of the DPC or College/Department Diversity Team to serve on search committees. This should only be done after discussing the initiative with faculty leaders from the Senate and the Ferris Faculty Association.

Emerging Issues –

The Diversity Office will be sponsoring \$5000.00(FY09) for Student Diversity Grants. A Student Organization can apply for those funds to be used for diversity projects. A committee will review those requests once a month. Those committee members are: Janel Lockwood, Susan Starkey, Russell Leonard, Susan Fogarty, Sharon Hopper, Matt Eickhoff.

Also, the Diversity Office, President’s Office and Academic Affairs will be sponsoring for FY09 Faculty/ Staff Diversity Grants, more information will be available. The purpose of these grants is to stimulate new diversity initiatives. Information about the grants will appear on the Diversity Office’s webpage.

2008 Equity Conference Evaluation –

The evaluations were distributed. Overall, the evaluations evidenced that the Conference was productive. However, there needs to be more focus on Native Americans. Work is still being done on a video montage. The DPC expressed interest in Ferris hosting the Equity Conference in 2011.

Diversity Plan –

David explained that this group is no longer a planning group but a action group and now that the Plan has been approved we need to implement the initiatives. David is working with the Deans to get their work teams assembled. To date, there are diversity work teams in Arts & Sciences and FLITE.

2008 Presidential PowerPoint –

David presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2008 Presidential Candidates. It was well received by the committee. The DPC suggested that the presentation should be presented to the broader University community.

Note: If you cannot attend a meeting please send a representative.