

Diversity Planning Committee Meeting Summary
October 11, 2007

The following members were in attendance: Yolonda Barnes, Mike Cairns, Matt Chaney, Matthew Eickhoff, Scott Herron, Warren Hills, Thuy Karafa, Russell Leonard, Janel Lockwood, Eunice Merwin-Beck, Zoe Middleton, Jessica Mills, David Pilgrim, Todd Stanislav, Susan Starkey, Kent Sun, Luzia Tartari, Patty Terry, Troy Tissue, Hurdlynn Woods and Leroy Wright.
Absent: Abdul Ahmed, Tyrone Collins, Micala Evans, Susan Fogarty, Don Green, Karen GreenBay, James Mikula and Robbie Teahen.

The meeting summary from September 20, 2007 was approved.

Diversity Plan Update

- The President has asked David to reduce the DPC planning document that will be presented to the Board of Trustees. The President wants it to be 2 or 3 pages long.
- David distributed the 6 page document to DPC members asking them to review and let him know what they feel is missing and has to be in document. The DPC discussed initiatives that it believed to be essential.

Diversity Climate Survey

- The survey is going very well; some of the data was reviewed.
- Troy Tissue reported that phone calls had been made to students as reminders.
- A discussion ensued on how the data will be presented to the University. There was concern expressed about the confidentiality of responses.

2008 Equity Conference Update

- Todd Stanislav reported that the keynote speakers have been confirmed.
- The Call for Papers has gone out to the University. The DPC is committed to getting at least 100 Ferris faculty and staff to attend the event.

Hate Crimes

- David asked if anyone had any incidents of harassment against African Americans in response to a recent crime on campus. An African American student had a racial slur written on her door. A discussion ensued regarding what actions were taken and should have been taken to respond to this incident.
- Hurdlynn Woods and Jessica Mills will investigate recent hate crimes on campus to insure they are taken seriously.
- It was suggested that when the new Equal Opportunity Director is hired that that officer look into the Employee Dignity/Harassment/ Discrimination document. Students need to know where to go with their concerns.
- The DPC would like to invite Marty Bledsoe and Jim Cook to a DPC meeting.

Emerging Issues

- Warren Hills reported the Michigan has its first "HERC" (Higher Education Recruitment Consortium), here is a website link with more information: http://www.ccskad.edu/news/recentnews/news_2007_10_04_4/. Twenty-two Michigan Universities are involved.

Members of the DPC reported on upcoming events. They were encouraged to send announcements of diversity-themed events to the Diversity Office and the Campus Calendar.