

Committee on Diversity
Meeting Minutes for Monday March 5

Committee Members Present: Kim Bobby, Lisa Ferrari, Zaixin Hong, Margi Nowak, Susan Owen, Michel Rocchi, Amy Ryken, Kurt Walls

The meeting called to order at 8:06 a.m.

Minutes for Feb. 20, 2012 were approved without amendment.

Announcements:

1. Dean Kris Bartanen sent a questionnaire to search chairs and diversity liaisons to solicit feedback on diversity efforts in recent searches. The committee will review the feedback for patterns to inform resources to be developed for diversity liaisons.
2. The public forum on HIDE/SEEK (an art exhibit) was deemed successful.

Agenda Items:

1. Diversity and the Puget Sound Curriculum:

The committee reflected upon two current institutional approaches to diversity and the curriculum: (a) a list of courses that deal with a broad range of diversity issues (self-selected by faculty teaching the courses); (b) a standard curriculum review question about diversity within each department or school.

- (a) In 2009-10, under the leadership of Kim Bobby, The Diversity Advisory Committee first inventoried the Puget Sound curriculum for courses that addressed issues of diversity (in some fashion). The current committee members discussed some of the limitations of the list: (i) it is outdated and challenging to update on a regular basis; (ii) it is not clear who looks at or uses the list; and, (iii) it is unclear what depth of coverage is offered in each of the courses listed. Strengths identified include: (i) the categories listed align with the campus definition of social diversity and (ii) it gives a baseline picture of how faculty members view their courses in relation to diversity content.
- (b) Members of the committee discussed the range of responses to the curricular review question regarding diversity within each department or school. The committee discussed the plausibility of rephrasing the question for departments or schools that view their academic content as exclusive of issues of diversity. For example, the question might be phrased: "In your interaction with students, how do you meet the needs of a diverse population?"
- (c) Members of the committee briefly considered the challenges and possibilities of working with the Curriculum committee on a diversity requirement for the core. Members of the committee agreed to continue their discussion of this item.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted, A. Susan Owen, Communication Studies Dept.