

Diversity Committee Minutes
May 6, 2009

Committee Members/ Present: Zaixin Hong, Justin Tiehen, Paula Meiers, Monica DeHart, Judith Kay, Lisa Ferrari, Nancy Nieraeth, Margi Nowak, Kim Bobby

The meeting was called to order by chair Kay at 8:05 a.m. Nowak served as minute-taker. The minutes of the April 8 and April 22 meetings were reviewed and approved.

New Business

1. Acknowledgment of the committee's final meeting under the old bylaws: expressions of gratitude to all
 - A. Special thanks to this year's committee members who will no longer be a part of the newly constituted Faculty Diversity Committee: Jan Moore (from Staff Senate), Nancy Nierath (from Human Resources), Paula Meiers (Office of Admissions), Yoshiko Matsui (from the Dean of Students Office)
 - B. Certificates were presented to the aforementioned; suitable morning refreshments were offered to all
2. Report concerning the informal gathering at Niwa House to discuss different views about "diversity"
 - A. A small group of faculty met to air and listen to opinions for 2-3 hours
 - B. No consensus emerged, but the tone of the discussion was collegial, and those who attended felt the opportunity to listen was worthwhile

Old Business

1. Continuation of discussion of Charge Two – in respect to the collected faculty narratives to be used as part of the training for first-year advisors in September
 - A. A 20-minute discussion ensued concerning the content, identifiability, and potential confidentiality issues surrounding some of the narratives
 - B. Questions were raised about how these narratives could best be used within the framework of advisor training
 - i. Break-out discussions?
 - ii. 2 facilitators?
 - iii. At what point in the (limited) time frame of the training?
 - iv. Concurrent with the advisor training, or later in the semester? (consensus: concurrent!)
 - C. Everyone seemed to agree: explore the seemingly good fit between these narratives and a future session of Wednesdays at Four!
2. Thanks to all, especially to Judith for her leadership this year!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

These minutes were reviewed and approved by Diversity Committee members via email May 19, 2009.

Respectfully submitted~

Margi Nowak