

Diversity Committee Minutes – January 29, 2008

Present: Nila Wiese, Mike Valentine, Judith Kay, Paula Meiers, Monica DeHart, Margi Nowak, Lisa Ferrari, Kim Bobby, Nancy Nieraeth, Yoshiko Matsui, Carol Lentz and Nancy Bristow – visiting

Absent: Heather Clifford, Skylar Bihl, Heather Ahuero, Leslie Saucedo

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 by Chair Valentine.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Announcements:

The Swope Endowed Lectureship on Ethics, Religion, Faith & Values on Thursday, January 31 at 7PM – Reza Aslan “Winning a Cosmic War: Why We’re Losing the War on Terror”.

On February 8, there is a conference regarding immigration and higher education. Kim Bobby will attend.

Old Business/New Business:

Continued discussion of the future of the Diversity Committee took place since the last meeting in December 2007. Several Diversity Committee members met with members of the Faculty Senate and discussed splitting the Diversity Committee into three Diversity Committees with membership from each group coming together as an Advisory Committee to Kim Bobby as the Chief Diversity Officer. The three Diversity Committees would be: a Faculty Diversity Committee, a Staff Diversity Committee and a Student Diversity Committee. These groups would meet and have some accountability with regard to the Diversity Strategic Plan.

It was suggested that it would be a year and a half process to get the bylaws changed and the structure set up for these changes to be in place. There will need to be conversations with Staff Senate, ASUPS and Faculty Senate with regard to all of this. Nancy Bristow volunteered to take the issue to Faculty Senate and get it on the agenda for a future meeting.

The splitting of the Diversity Committee would allow each group to focus on their areas of concern. Faculty issues have been lost in recent years.

Preliminary work on the bylaws was encouraged.

Short discussion of the role of each of the Diversity Committees: How does Staff Senate connect with the different departments on campus? Is there an advocacy role to be played by the Diversity Committees?

Discussion changed to the “Moment Us” which will take place at the beginning of the school year – a couple of hours before Log Jam. The focus is to be on the University’s core value of diversity. Decision to connect with various groups on campus about ideas – Nila to Staff Senate, Mike to ASUPS, and then to the Executive Board of Staff Senate.

BHERT meeting happening later today. On Wednesday, March 5 BHERT will be the focus of “Spotlight” with the faculty at 4PM. Discussion of how to increase awareness of BHERT, using the group as a resource, how to be involved, identifying and reporting on diversity issues, newsletters, inclusion in Open Line, getting the Trail to do an article, Bright Ideas from BHERT, etc.

At the next meeting Kim Bobby will discuss “Moment Us” -- a new campus tradition.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 AM.