

Minutes of the Diversity Committee

April 22, 2010

Members present: Kim Bobby, Ayanna Drakos, Lisa Ferrari, Zaixin Hong, Margi Nowak, Susan Owen (Chair), Michel Rocchi, Steve Soule, Justin Tiehen.

Guest: Bill Haltom.

Owen called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.
The committee approved the minutes from March 25, 2010.

Prior to official business, committee members enjoyed Aunt Willie's cake. The members thanked Kim Bobby for the dessert.

An informal discussion of the April faculty meeting ensued with guest Bill Haltom. At the conclusion of this discussion B. Haltom left the meeting, and members contemplated the upcoming faculty vote on the proposed bylaws amendments.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Owen reviewed the year's Senate charges to the committee in light of her required end-of-year report to the Faculty Senate. It was noted that the committee has fulfilled its responsibilities on all charges with the exception of charge 1:

"Continue to review the language of the University's Diversity Statement in light of suggested changes from the Coalition Against Injustice and Racism and present suggestions to the Senate..."

The committee did not accomplish this charge deeming it imprudent until the faculty and trustees settle the bylaws question.

Owen suggested the committee undertake a self-charge for next year: To encourage increased awareness and participation in 2011 in the Campus Climate Survey. Members agreed to the charge.

At 4:50, the meeting scribe (Rocchi) left the meeting for another commitment, and Ferrari took over the role of secretary. Her notes are incorporated below.

Owen expressed her desire that the committee continue to explore the issues raised by students and Dean of Students Mike Segawa at the November 20, 2009 meeting. These issues concern the current structure of and support for student diversity groups. Owen suggested that her final report to the Faculty Senate include a self-charge to continue this work.

Bobby raised the question of whether the committee has a budget of \$500. In the past, these funds have been available annually. Ferrari was unsure whether these funds came from a budget line dedicated to the Diversity Committee, or whether

they had simply been made available from the Associate Deans' contingency fund. She will consult with Associate Dean Alyce DeMarais on the matter.

Owen thanked the committee for its hard work this year. In turn, committee members commended Owen for her service as Chair, especially during her first year serving on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55. This was the final meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michel Rocchi, Professor
French Studies.