

Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes

11/20/09

In attendance

Kim Bobby, Collin Dahl-Veenstra, Ayanna Drakos, Zaixin Hong, Margi Nowak, Susan Owen, Michel Rocchi, Steve Soule, David Sousa, Justin Tiehen; and Mike Segawa (guest).

- I. The meeting was called to order by the chair at 13:05, and the minutes of the previous committee meeting were approved.
- II. Susan Owen stated that she is working with Senate Chair, Doug Cannon on an effort to address the trustees' concerns. Any drafted language will come before the faculty. She also congratulated the BSU on a successful *Jerkin in Tacoma* event.
- III. Collin Dahl-Veenstra and Ayanna Drakos presented a statement compiling various student reactions to the suggested revisions to the University's Diversity Statement. It is attached with these minutes.

At the end of their presentation Susan Owen asked if committee members would like to draft a proposal aiming at coalition building. She volunteered with Kim Bobby to draft such a proposal for next semester.

- IV. Mike Segawa offered some preliminary remarks to the Retention Task Force Report that is attached with these minutes. He stated that there remains a need to integrate the data, particularly in a longitudinal way. This led into a general discussion:
 - Michel Rocchi asked why such a thorough report that addressed so many student groups and interests has no mention to Greek life. This scribe did not perceive a direct answer to the question other than the Greek community has a higher retention than the campus average. Rocchi followed up by asking that if from a Student Life perspective there were any surprises in the study. Mike Segawa answered that it was mostly in the recognition that individual faculty member's efforts were key to retention in many student responses.
 - David Sousa remarked that the report shows that we are not as successful in retention as our comparable colleges. He added that while the report has some good elements, the literature on student retention is largely missing. Mike Segawa answered that the group concentrated on small colleges and not larger institutions.
- V. The meeting adjourned at 14:55.

Minutes written by:
Michel Rochi.