

Diversity Committee Minutes

November 10, 2006

Attending: Ed Cole, Monica DeHart, Mike Valentine, Kim Bobby, Jim McCullough, Nila Wiese, Carrie Washburn, Michelle Stoler, Jean Kim

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M.

Chair Nila Wiese asked for comments on or corrections to the October 27th meeting minutes. Jim informed the committee that Rosa Beth had alerted him to some changes that she wanted to suggest to the minutes; however, she was not able to attend the meeting today. Therefore the approval of the minutes was postponed till the next meeting.

The Chair called for announcements: Carrie gave an overview of the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation which has been at work for over ten years to build a park on the Ruston Way to educate and celebrate the contributions of Chinese Americans who were evicted from Tacoma back in 1885. Lotus Sun Perry has been actively involved with the group. Nila reminded us that the Western WA students of color reception is on Sat. Nov. 18th 2-7; faculty members who can participate are urged to do so, especially attending the dinner from 6-7pm. Michelle reviewed highlights from the busy diversity activity calendar. Jim announced that the business school is looking to hire several students to work with the Korean students who will be here from Mid January to March 3rd learning English and getting familiar with the US culture. This is the second year of this special program and is a great opportunity for students who have an interest in international area and the pay is good, \$11.30 an hour.

Agenda Items:

1. Report from the Bias and Hate sub-committee

Nila passed out the report from BHERT. Since the committee members did not receive the report ahead and have not had the chance to read it through, the discussion of this

item was tabled till the next meeting. All members are encouraged to read the report before the next meeting.

2. Revisions to self assessment document

Jim reviewed for us the changes he made to the recommendations based on the discussion from the last meeting and additional feedback received from various committee members. He noted he will make the necessary revisions to consistently represent this group as Committee on Diversity (not diversity committee) throughout the report.

The group agreed that there is a need to formalize the connection between this group and various diversity initiatives and programs on campus. Jean informed the group that one of the recommendations contained in the final report of the DPTF, which was just submitted to Ron, will likely have an impact on the scope and responsibility of this committee. A spirited discussion ensued as to whether this committee becomes a university wide diversity council (or by some similar name) with oversight responsibility for the implementation of the diversity strategic plan recommended in the DPTF report. We also discussed if such a group should remain in the faculty senate purview or report to the President directly. Carrie gave an historical update on how the faculty senate's committee on diversity came to be and her sense that the faculty senate is not likely to sunset this committee. We agreed that the recommendation #3 of the self evaluation report should be modified to reflect potential impact of the DPTF recommendations. Jim agreed to change the text of the recommendation #3 to reflect this decision.

3. Update on the Admissions Data

Nila passed out the information from admissions. But as we were running out of time, we decided to table this item to the next meeting as well. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

The next meeting of the Diversity Committee is Friday, December 8 at 8 A.M. in the Student Diversity Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Kim