

Faculty Diversity Committee Minutes October 9, 1998

Present: Michele Birnbaum, John Dickson, David Droge, Peggy Firman, Rosa Beth Gibson, Chuck Hommel, Peggy Matson, Paula Meiers, Dori Rosenberg, Carrie Washburn, Jennifer Way, Carolyn Weisz

The meeting opened with some discussion of our method of reporting and approving the minutes. Carrie Washburn said that other committees do not wait until the next meeting to submit minutes to facultycoms. Instead, minutes are submitted after the appropriate meeting and corrections are noted in the minutes of the next meeting. It was agreed that we would change our procedure so that the person taking minutes will circulate a draft of the minutes to other committee members. After other members have had the opportunity to comment, the minutes will be submitted to facultycoms. Approval of the minutes will take place at the next meeting.

The minutes from the meeting of 9/25/98 were approved with corrections (mostly typographical).

John Dickson reported on his conversations with administrators about the Committee's recommendations to the Budget Task Force. He said the administrators asked that we not submit a written document to the BTF unless there is funding for new programs or a change in funding for existing programs. He reported that the administrators did not foresee any major change in funding this year.

Peggy Firman said that an annual written document serves as a useful reminder to the FDC that BTF recommendations must be considered at the beginning of the academic year.

Carolyn Weisz pointed out that we can make recommendations to administrators regarding programs to promote diversity. John Dickson said we should make recommendations to administrators rather than to the BTF.

Carrie Washburn and Rosa Beth Gibson reviewed some history of the FDC communications with the BTF - including the Committee's support of funding the Academic Challenge program.

John Dickson suggested we reconsider this issue in the spring - that is a good time to approach administrators with ideas for new programs and funding.

Paula Meiers said she expects support for financial aid for diversity to continue at existing levels.

Carolyn Weisz and John Dickson summarized the discussion as follows: Each year we should poll administrators and, if new funding is being requested, support the request.

Jennifer Way suggested that we should start this process in the spring so there is more time to be effective.

Carolyn Weisz said that fall was the time we could consider developments and proposals made over the summer.

It was decided that:

- next year we will check again for proposals to support
- we will put a statement to that effect in our end of year report
- we will not submit a written report to the BTF this year.

Carolyn Weisz asked how we should pursue the work of last year's committee regarding diversity in the Curriculum.

Michele Birnbaum noted that the Faculty Senate is entering into a debate about the core curriculum and diversity has not appeared as an issue in the debate. She asked whether we should present last year's committee report as a way of bringing up diversity as an issue.

Carrie Washburn noted that the Faculty Senate is preparing models of core curricula and asked whether we should transmit our report to the Faculty Senate now before we implement the charge of meeting with faculty.

Carolyn Weisz asked whether we should ask the Faculty Senate to consider how diversity is treated in the core models.

Michele Birnbaum said we should simply ask if they want the information we prepared. She suggested we e-mail our report to the Faculty Senate members to provide the Senate with the vocabulary for discussing diversity.

John Dickson suggested we send last year's report to Bill Haltom (Faculty Senate chair), mentioning that this is last year's report, that it is an work in progress, and requesting that the Senate consider this in the core discussion.

It was decided that Carolyn Weisz would forward the report to Bill Haltom.

Carrie Washburn suggested that Michele Birnbaum carry paper copies to Monday's Faculty Senate meeting in case members did not have copies.

Carolyn Weisz brought up the Faculty Senate charges to the committee. She noted that the Senate had merged our "solicitation of faculty" into charge #2 as "informal discussions with faculty and students about issues of diversity in the curriculum". She also noted that the FS added a new charge (#1) that the Committee assess the progress the University has made since the University Diversity Committee issued its report in May, 1990. She suggested we discuss these at the next meeting.

David Droge reported four recommendations prepared by the subcommittee (Droge, Washburn, Way) on how we can implement faculty and student discussions about diversity in the curriculum.

- Any discussion of diversity in the curriculum should begin with last year's Committee report
- A student discussion/forum is warranted. The Trail should be solicited to publish the four models described by the Committee in its report. Students should be encouraged to invite faculty to the student session.
- The Committee's report should be made available to faculty for discussion.
- Faculty discussions should be separate from student discussions.

Carolyn Weisz noted that our next meeting, two weeks hence, is too far away for us to wait on considering these proposals.

The subcommittee agreed to meet at 2:00pm, Friday, 10/16 in the Diversions coffee shop to discuss dates for student/faculty meetings. All are welcome to attend.

Carrie Washburn said we should consider how we could make these meetings important and attractive enough that people will come.

John Dickson said that small groups would work best.

Carrie Washburn said that the idea is to get faculty talking about diversity and incorporating it in the curriculum.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled in Library 124 at 4:00 p.m. on 10/23/98.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Hommel