

## **Diversity Committee Minutes February 12, 1997**

**Members present:** Flo Ariessohn, Linda Critchlow, Rosa Beth Gibson, George Guilmet, Henry Johnson, Judith Kay, Martyn Kingston, Pat Krueger, George Mills, Margaret Setchfield, Carrie Washburn, Carolyn Weisz

1. Minutes were approved from 1/29/97.
2. Grace Kirchner, as chair of the faculty senate, has asked the committee to look at the current membership and a senate proposal for future membership. A copy of these was distributed for discussion at the next meeting on 2/26/97. (It was noted that the committee's request last year to add Henry Johnson and Freeda Savage as members was not evident on the senate's proposal.)
3. Martyn Kingston presented once again the Multicultural America core component proposed by several faculty, and discussion followed as to how to proceed. Carolyn Weisz noted that the next faculty meeting should address distribution requirements, to be followed by core components. Carrie Washburn suggested that the Multicultural America could be proposed as an **option** for students in the core, as foreign language is currently an option.

Martyn Kingston stated that from his survey, there are eight or nine faculty who are currently prepared to teach courses in a Multicultural America component. He noted that there would not likely be enough for 20 sections as are now taught in the comparative values core.

Carolyn Weisz suggested that we talk about why the proposal would help the University at the faculty meeting, to interest more faculty. Martyn Kingston suggested that starting small might be preferable, perhaps keeping the best of our current courses that would fit into this component.

It was noted that there will most likely be much disagreement regarding a Multicultural America component, particularly amongst faculty who are interested in the study of cultures outside of the U.S. Alternative options for core components was again suggested as a possible solution.

Discussion followed regarding goals as well as limitations of the proposed component. Carolyn Weisz and Martyn Kingston asked whether the component should be proposed by the authors, or come from the committee. Pat Krueger suggested that the proposal might be better supported by faculty if it comes from the authors, and noted that the committee had previously endorsed the component. George Guilmet recommended that a faculty author put the proposal on the faculty meeting agenda. George Mills noted that **process** is very important in finding support for the Multicultural America component.

Margaret Setchfield summarized that the role of the committee is not to push a particular proposal. The curriculum subcommittee will work on coalition-building for support and feedback on the proposal, and put it on the faculty meeting agenda when ready.

5. The next meeting of the Diversity Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1997 at 4-4:50 PM in Howarth, 3rd floor conference room. (Pat Krueger will chair the next meeting due to Margaret Setchfield's course conflict.)

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Krueger