Cultural Diversity Committee
Minutes for March 10, 2011
3:05-3:45 p.m.

Present: Julie Ancis, Eric Blacknall, Annette Butler, Doug Covey, Doris Derby, Christine Gallant, Joel Glogowski, Shi’i Gurmu, Beth Gyllys, Layli Maparyan, Cora Presley.


Visitors: John Day, Janelle Zingaro.

The February minutes were approved as read.

Christine Gallant updated the committee on the new Senior Faculty Associate for Disabilities position. The Disability Initiatives Committee drafted the job description of this position for the Provost, and a search committee is being formed by the Provost. Doug Covey and Susan Easterbrooks are its co-chairs.

Cora Presley next gave the annual report as the SFA of Underrepresented Faculty. The electronic version of the report had been sent to all committee members in advance of this meeting. First, Cora noted that the position of the SFA for the Advancement of Women was still open, and that a search committee chaired by Irene Duhaime was currently seeking for a replacement for Denise Donnelly, the former SFA-AW. Then Cora reported that within the last year we have gotten more minority faculty, but still not in sufficient numbers. The report found that the faculty mentoring program was generally successful. She referred the committee to Appendix 2 of the report, which gave retention data. She noted that the SFA-UF will be getting a staff member as a resource person. She intends to update the website of the Office for Underrepresented Faculty.

Doug Covey reported on the progress of his subcommittee’s consideration of the Diversity Strategic Plan (DSP) for the Planning & Development Committee. His subcommittee hopes to be able to have their revision considered by the April meeting of the Senate, although next Fall may be a more realistic goal. They are meeting every week for two hours to revise the DSP given to them by Linda Nelson, chair of the DSP Task Force. Doug wants the DSP to be compatible with the larger University Strategic Plan, with the Goals in the same order, the divisions the same, and so on. The metrics will be separated from the body of the Plan, and it will be much shorter than at present. The subcommittee has gotten some individual feedback from P&D members.

As an FYI, Christine informed the committee that she has requested the Statutes and Bylaws Committee to review the section in the Senate Bylaws relating to electronic voting by committees for possible guidelines about how to count no-replies. This was requested by Doug Covey after our recent election on the Faculty Salary Equity initiative in which the no-replies were not counted at all.
Finally, Christine informed the committee that since she will be retiring in June, the committee should begin thinking of nominees for next year’s chair. The chair’s election will be held at our next scheduled meeting on April 21, from 3-4 p.m. in 939 General Classroom Building (the Troy Moore Library).

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by: Christine Gallant