Cultural Diversity Committee
Minutes
December 11, 2001
3:00 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

Present: Justina Emmanuel, Christine Gallant, Lois Mohr, Linda Nelson, John Peterson, Joe Rau, Hazel Scott.

Absent: Kyle Bruner, Doris Derby, Mustafa Elsawy, Valerie Fennell, Tazar Gissentanner, Edi Guyton, Charles Marvin, Cora Presley, Ron Squibbs, Maria Valeri-Gold, Sally Wallace, Molly Weinburgh, Julia Young.

Since there was not a quorum, the November minutes were not approved. Christine Gallant explained that John DeCastro, Executive Committee Chair, had communicated to her that he thought that election of staff senators should be open to all staff members and not be restricted to members of the Staff Advisory Council, as our original motion had stated. Discussion of this issue followed.

Joe Rau asked about the process by which student senators are elected. Student member Justina Emmanuel stated that some student senators were elected by their colleges, and others were appointed by the social Greek organizations, the Dean of Students, and the international student organizations. Linda Nelson suggested that the Staff Council senators could be a mixture of those elected and those appointed, with some perhaps ex-officio members from the offices that deal with staff concerns such as Human Resources and the Affirmative Action Office. She also suggested that our committee should remove itself from the consideration of the selection process, and let Staff Council decide how many should be elected and how many appointed.

Hazel Scott pointed out that the Staff Council representatives are not elected at-large, but by their districts.

Discussion turned to how many years a staff person should be required to have served at GSU for Senate eligibility. John DeCastro preferred three, as for faculty, but Staff Council thought that one should be sufficient since that was what was required for student senators and also for membership in Staff Council. John Peterson suggested a compromise of two years: not as much as for faculty, but more than for students.

Linda thought that staff senators will need an ongoing education in Senate processes, and John agreed that if they were added to the Senate they needed to know the system. Linda suggested an outreach program from the Committee of Chairs or the Executive Committee to all new senators.

Those college liaisons present gave progress reports on their college guidelines. John stated that the COAS Guidelines are being revised, with text added from the University Policy, and will be reviewed by Dean Abdelal, and then voted on by the Committee of Department Chairs. Joe Rau reported that in the College of Health and Human Sciences the Faculty Advisory Committee is in the process of setting up a subcommittee to work on their guidelines. He is the representative from his unit.

Lois Mohr said that the subcommittee in Business, chaired by Richard Dean, that is to work on the
guidelines hasn’t met yet. Some discussion followed about possible ways to encourage the college
to develop guidelines. Linda suggested that perhaps an appeal could be made to Diversity
Management interests that would affect corporations, and suggested that we contact Dr. Gerald
Gay, Chair of the Department of Finance, about this. The college liaisons for Education, Law, and
the School of Policy Studies had e-mailed their reports to Christine earlier, and she distributed
them.

Christine said that since there was not a quorum, we could not vote on whether to recommend that
Senate membership be open to all staff or only to Staff Council members, but she would canvass
the full committee by e-mail for their vote.

The meeting was adjourned.