Cultural Diversity Committee
Minutes
October 8, 2002
3:04pm - 4:01pm

Present: Barry Chung, Carol Carver, Doris Derby, Paula Eubanks, Valerie Fennell, Christine Gallant, Charles Marvin, Lois Mohr, John Peterson, Tim Renick, Debra Snell, Susan Talburt, Tracy Van Voris, Sally Wallace, Leslie Williams.
Absent: Barbara Etzel, Charles Gallagher, Tazar Gissentanner, Steve Harmon, Linda Nelson, Cora Presley, Steve Rapp, Joe Rau, Fernando Reati, Mary Ann Romski, Hazel Scott, Kimberly Smith, Maria Valeri-Gold, Susan Walcott.

The September minutes were approved as read.

Christine Gallant opened the meeting with consideration of Professor Podgor’s request that the committee sponsor a study to assess the campus climate survey. After some discussion, the committee approved supporting the survey, with all in favor save one abstention due to office.

Christine next distributed a survey with possible questions regarding how the campus climate study would be handled. She stated that she would like to discuss it during the November meeting. John Peterson commented that the committee was too large to conduct such a survey, and suggested that a subcommittee be formed to handle it. Susan Talburt stated that she had relevant research experience since she has published a book on the subject; and John Peterson added that he too had 17 years of research experience with gays and lesbians in connection with his AIDS research. Sally Wallace proposed contacting the Chair of the Campus Climate Research Group at the University of Georgia to invite him to talk with the committee about the Group’s experiences. Carol Carver suggested that possibly we could enlist assistance from graduate classes that would be interested in the survey as a research project. Barry Chung agreed, and added that when conducting a study of this scope administrative support and funding from the university would be essential.

Christine updated the committee on the newly formed subcommittee and its chair, Chip Gallagher (who was unable to be present). They decided to focus on preparing a proposal of the committee duties since the issue of membership is still under consideration by the Statute and Bylaws Committee.

John provided an update on the Guidelines for the Retention of Underrepresented Faculty and reported that all colleges have at least drafted if not approved their guidelines, except the college of Health and Human Sciences. They will have theirs completed sometime this semester.

There being no other business, the committee was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Note: On November 2, 2002, the committee voted electronically to rescind its motion passed in February, 2002, to grant Senate membership to twenty staff members, one to be the President of the Staff Advisory Council and the other nineteen elected by and from the staff of each SAC voting district. The vote was twenty in favor, one opposed, and two abstaining because of office.