Present: Hazel Scott, Christine Gallant, Cora Presley, Susan Talburt, Chip Gallagher, Lois Mohr, Laloria Konata, Sally Wallace, Joe Rau, Marissa Johnson.

Absent: Doris Derby, Barry Chung, John Peterson, Charles Marvin, Geoffrey Haydon, Jeffrey Benson, Kyle Bruner, Fernando Reati, Valerie Fennell, Leslie Williams, Linda Nelson.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm. The minutes from January 12, 2004 were read and approved.

Christine Gallant, Linda Nelson and Leslie Williams are representing the Cultural Diversity Committee on the subcommittee that is revising the discriminatory harassment section of the Student Conduct Code for the Student Life and Development Committee (SLAD). Christine Gallant reported that, in light of the racial incident involving the Pike fraternity and the subsequent campus discussions, President Patton has asked the subcommittee to expedite its review of the Student Conduct Code. The subcommittee will forward its recommendations to SLAD for approval, and then the Cultural Diversity Committee will review the SLAD proposal before it is sent to the full Senate for a vote.

Susan Talburt reported that the LBCT survey was administered in February. The subcommittee hopes to have the data ready for our committee’s review by the end of April.

Hazel Scott reported that the African American Male Initiative Committee has completed its task and will have its report ready by the end of April.

Hazel Scott informed the committee of the series of events on campus that resulted from the Pike fraternity incident. In December 2003, the Pike fraternity held a party whose theme was “Straight out of Compton: Come in you most Ghetto fabulous outfit.” Several white students appeared in “blackface.” Black students who present protested to the Pike hosts that the theme and costumes worn to the party constituted racial slurs. The students in “blackface” were asked to leave the party. Towards the end of March, campus demonstrations by African-American students were held to protest the incident and the University’s apparent failure to respond to it. Dr. Patton convened a group of concerned faculty, staff and students; and at that meeting a list of student demands was presented. Out of the discussions which ensued over the next two months, the University has

- held a disciplinary hearing for the Pike Fraternity (suspended from campus until January 2005),
- held a disciplinary hearing of the Black Student Alliance for their racial harassment of Pike members during the student rally (suspended from campus until January 2005),
- agreed to move forward the evaluation of the Dean of Student Affairs,
- agreed to review all student disciplinary hearings to investigate whether there has been race-related differential treatment over the past three years, and
- asked the Senate Cultural Diversity Committee to gather data on adding a course on cultural diversity to the University’s core curriculum.

The committee agreed that Cora Presley and Sally Wallace would meet with the Provost to discuss the administration of a racial climate survey. Sally Wallace and Leslie Williams will oversee the collection of
data on the hearings by the Student Discipline Committee of members of the Pike fraternity and the Black Student Alliance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.