Senate Cultural Diversity Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2004

Present: Cora Presley, Julie Ancis, Christine Gallant, Hazel Scott, Doris Derby, Paul Ferraro, Sally Fowler, Mary Finn, Kyle Bruner

Absent: LaLoria Konata, Linda Nelson, Charles Marvin, Marcia Pearl, Doug Podoll, Elisabeth Burgess, Peggy Albers, Brenda Blackwell, Vijay Deshpande Valerie Fennell, Elizabeth Firestone, Josue Heredia, Marissa Johnson, Ronald Patterson, John Peterson, Hazel Scott

Minutes of November 12, 2004 meeting reviewed, typographical error corrected, approved as amended.

Christine reviewed the history and purpose of African American Male Initiative (AAMI) Subcommittee and provided related handout. One of the Board of Regents’ requirements for the Initiative is to conduct a survey of the campus racial climate. The Board of Regents provided GSU with $24,000 grant to implement initiatives.

The committee also received data on:
* Enrollment of New African American Freshman and Enrollment of African American Undergraduate Degree-Seeking Students from Fall 1998-Fall 2003.
* Multiple year Retention Rates by Gender and Ethnicity for Full-Time, First-Time Entering Freshman from Fall 1997-Fall 2003.

Results indicate that African American males have the lowest retention rates in the university.

Christine Gallant commented that the University might use the website more effectively to attract minority students by having better representation of students of color on the website. Cora Presley commented that the Arts and Sciences video has problems in how it represents the academic study of African American history and culture. The committee decided to defer addressing this until current prioritized recommendations areas have been completed.

Hazel suggested deleting "No-Cost Recommendations" terminology on AAMI Recommendations handout and keeping term "Low-Cost Recommendations." Hazel discussed purposes of grant to be used in partnership with Atlanta Metro and community agency. Hazel will be meeting with Provost to discuss and clarify use of grant for purposes of Recruitment/Retention and will provide an update to the committee at its next meeting.

Cora called for committee to pass and endorse ranking of AAMI Recommendations. The Committee approved and endorsed the rankings.

Christine reported history, purpose and current work of the Cultural Climate Survey Subcommittee. History includes the PIKE incident, the defacing of classroom with swastikas, the mandate by BOR, and the Provost’s approval of funding for the racial climate survey. Next steps include determining survey instrument. The surveys should be distributed and completed by the end of the Spring 2005 semester and preliminary results obtained. Further results, analysis, and writing will occur subsequently.

The committee discussed the focus of questions to include in survey. Julie indicated that clarifying the focus of our inquiry; i.e., racial-ethnic-religious attitudes or experience of the campus cultural climate will determine which survey instrument to employ.

The Racial Climate Subcommittee will present a summary of their work to the Senate Cultural Diversity Committee at the next committee meeting.

Cora announced that the Resolution related to the defacing of a classroom with a swastika had been received by the
Executive Committee in time to be placed on the agenda for the December Senate meeting. The Resolution passed in University Senate Meeting.

Christine recommended changes to Cultural Diversity Committee subcommittee assignments, substituting John Peterson as chair of the AAMI Subcommittee, since she is chairing the Racial Climate Subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned.