Cultural Diversity Committee
Minutes
February 9, 2005
10:15 am—11:30 am.

Present: Julie Ancis, Elisabeth Burgess, Doris Derby, Valerie Fennell, Paul Ferraro, Sally Fowler, Christine Gallant, LaLoria Konata, Linda Nelson, Ronald Patterson, Marcia Pearl, John Peterson, Doug Podoll, Cora Presley, and Hazel Scott.

Absent: Peggy Albers, Perry Binder, Brenda Blackwell, Kyle Bruner, Vijay Deshpande, Mary Finn, Elizabeth Firestone, Josue Heredia, Marissa Johnson, Charles Marvin, Alan Raines.

I. Approval of Minutes
The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved without corrections.

II. Status Report Racial Climate Survey- Julie Ancis & Christine Gallant
The Status Report on the Cultural Climate Survey was given by subcommittee co-chairs Julie Ancis and Christine Gallant. The focus of the survey will be on the undergraduate racial/ethnic and religious experiences with the university and university services. The final draft of the survey was submitted to the committee for discussion. Julie stated that the subcommittee had primarily based its survey on those given by Indiana State University and the University of Maryland at College Park, with their permission at no cost, and used their subscales of questions. Discussion followed about the reliability indexes of these subscales. Paul Ferraro asked about the sample size response rates and the possibility of reducing the number of questions. Julie stated that the entire student population would be randomly sampled and the minority students would be over-sampled. She recommended that three sections relating to perceptions of attitudes be omitted, thereby reducing the survey by 18 questions. It was also suggested that the variable “sexual orientation” be added to the opening demographics section. Cora asked for a final vote on the survey, and the committee unanimously approved it as revised.

Christine reported on other aspects of the survey:
- Timeline- the final report will be submitted to the Senate Executive Committee by the end of December 2005, as mandated by the Regents in their AAMI Report.
- The Provost has allotted us survey funds of $12,000.
- There will be incentives to student participants to increase the response rate.
- Julie will get a course release to co-chair the subcommittee and oversee the survey, as she has relevant expertise in designing and administering campus climate surveys.
- The survey will be given on-line.

III. Status Report African American Male Initiative-Hazel Scott & John Peterson
Hazel spoke about the Provost’s positive response to the AAMI subcommittee’s recommendations of December 15, 2004. The Provost designated Hazel as the person in charge of:
- Deciding the use of the Board of Regents’ AAMI funding to GSU.
- The activities that GSU will follow to implement the AAMI recommendations.
- The collaboration of GSU and Atlanta Metro College in their responses to the AAMI Report.

Hazel also reported the following:
- The student organization Tighter Grip has approached Linda Nelson’s Office of Opportunity Development and Diversity Education Planning and asked it to identify faculty and staff mentoring
opportunities.

- Dr. Umoja and Dr. Gayle of African American Studies are working on an FLC for African American males (with a class size limit). This is our AAMI recommendation #8.
- As soon as Hazel gets the go-ahead for the money from the Board of Regents, we will have to decide how to create a Summer Bridge Program at GSU to assist African-American males in high school, and what faculty will be involved.

The AAMI Subcommittee will not meet until Hazel is ready to proceed.

IV. Other Business- Administrative Review Unit Self Study Report

Joan Carson has requested a Cultural Diversity committee member to serve in the Administrative and Support Unit Self Study Review for the Dean of Students office.

Linda Nelson: The Judicial Tracking subcommittee is moving forward. The tracking of judicial decisions involving minority students for the last three years was requested last spring by the Black Student Alliance.

Hazel asked about the status of the LGBT Climate Survey report. Its completion has been delayed, and its chair Susan Talburt will report on its progress at our March meeting.

Cora is collecting information about the present Diversity Course requirements as the basis for work by the subcommittee on possible changes to this requirement.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.