Cultural Diversity Committee Meeting

Minutes

April 5, 2006

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Attendees- Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Elizabeth Firestone, Christine Gallant, Mary Anne Gaunt, Olga Jarrett, Kwame Lawson, Cora Presley, John Peterson, and Hazel Scott, Doris Derby, Mary Finn, Chuck, Marvin Doug Podoll, and Paul Ferraro

Absent- Brant Barber, Tineke Battle, Perry Binder, Elisabeth Burgess, Pam Hackbart-Dean, Susan Easterbrooks, Linda Nelson, Marcia Pearl, Alan Raines

The minutes were read and approved as amended.

Hazel Scott reported on the current state of the University’s program to implement the AAMI recommendations. She stated that the University has entered into collaboration with Atlanta Metropolitan College, using a $28,000 grant from the BOR. The program, known as Gear Up, served 100 young men from Middle Schools, High Schools and non-traditional programs. The purpose of the program is “to provide support, information, and training to parents of students and students in identified low performing schools to help empower them to promote and support school achievement.” As a result of the program’s activities, 17 of the students completed admissions applications for Atlanta Metropolitan College and 2 students completed applications for Georgia State University. The second significant activity was a College of Education grant of approximately $15,000 for the DREAMS project. The goals of the project were “to increase the academic performance level on standardized tests of African American males; to increase the number of African American males who remain in programs focused on graduation, [and] to empower the parents and African American male students through awareness of financial aid, scholarships, tutoring, mentoring and academic advisement available to them through the high school and university system.” Both initiatives end at the close of the 2005-2006 academic year. The committee discussed the goals and outcomes of the projects, noting that the collaboration with Atlanta Metro yielded only 2 students for GSU. The committee also commented on the fact that few of the recommendations from last year’s committee report have been addressed by these two projects. The committee urged the Chair of the cultural diversity committee to contact the Provost to ascertain current and future plans for implementation the GSU campus recommendations in response to the African American Male Initiative.

Julie Ancis and Christine Gallant presented the draft of the Cultural Climate Survey Report. Committee members noted that the report was well-done and thanked the sub-committee for its hard work. Following a vigorous discussion, the committee recommended changes in the report.
The most important recommendations included that an Executive Summary be attached to the final report and that the report be examined carefully for places where recommendations are made to create programs that are already in place. Discussion ensued related to the findings. While the results indicated that students were generally satisfied with services at GSU, many students perceived difficulty accessing some services on campus, conflict over cultural space, and specific incidents of discrimination. After a discussion about possible lack of diversity in high schools from our feeder schools, Doug Podoll volunteered to gather the data on the 50 top feeder schools for GSU and bring it to the next committee meeting. Committee members were invited to e-mail their proposed changes to Christine Gallant for inclusion in the final draft that will be reviewed at the April 26, 2006 meeting.

The committee adjourned at 4:30 pm.