Cultural Diversity Committee Meeting

Minutes

1/18/07

Attendees: Elisabeth Burgess, Christine Gallant, MaryAnne Gaunt, Olga Jarrett, Jeremy Paden, John Peterson, Alaycia Reid, Leslie Taylor.

Absent: Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Pedro Carrillo, Marva Carter, Douglass Covey, Doris Derby, Susan Easterbrooks, Paul Ferraro, Mary Finn, Skye Hardesty, Amina Kirk, Linda Nelson, Doug Podoll, Cora Presley, Natsu Saito.

The meeting began at 2:15 pm.

The minutes were approved as read.

Christine Gallant took over as Acting Chair since Chair Cora Presley was ill. The second two items on Cora’s planned agenda were not addressed. Since there was not a quorum, Christine decided not to discuss the report of the Freshman Learning Community Subcommittee that Jeremy Paden had submitted at our December meeting, but to hold the discussion at our February meeting when hopefully there would be attendance more nearly approaching a quorum. Jeremy said that he expected to expand the report and include new materials and suggestions. There could be no discussion of the Perspectives Courses since Doug Podoll, chair of the Perspectives Courses Subcommittee, and Cora Presley, who had wanted to discuss the courses with the committee, were both absent. This too will be discussed at our February meeting.

Christine spent most of the meeting updating the committee on the progress of her USG Partners Insurance Task Force, answering questions, and receiving counsel on how to proceed. The draft of the Regents Report (10 pages long with six Appendices) that was edited and approved by her Task Force had just been sent to the three research universities on January 10 for their consideration. The Task Force had been very helpful in providing the necessary research material for this report. All present agreed that now was the time to break our silence about the project and ask as many whom we considered sympathetic to help as we could, either by supplying names of contacts at those three schools or encouraging the faculty at those schools to lobby. Christine said that she would provide an update on her Task Force progress to the entire committee and ask for their lobbying assistance.

Christine said that Cora would include information about the entire Task Force project for the first time in her committee report to the full Senate at its March 15 meeting. There was some discussion about when our Cultural Diversity Committee should receive a draft of the Regents Report for their consideration. Christine said that she had asked the contacts at the three schools who received the report to send any requests for revisions to her by March 2. Our full committee will be considering and voting on the report at our March 15 meeting. MaryAnne Gaunt said that she didn’t want to receive the report prematurely, and would prefer to read it after the schools had suggested their revisions. All present agreed that they wanted to know whether Georgia Tech and/or the Medical College of Georgia had agreed to join our coalition before reading the report. John Peterson said that if only the University of Georgia would join us, then both committees, and possibly the entire Senate, would need to decide whether to proceed.

It was tentatively decided that Christine would send the full report to our committee on March 2, with the proviso: “This report should not be quoted or distributed.” Christine noted that there could be last minute
requests for revisions that she would have to make over the Spring Break (March 3-12), so that it would be sent to our committee members later than March 2.

Olga Jarrett said that her own department of Early Childhood Education had noted that there was nothing in the GoSolar faculty evaluations by students that related to diversity, although one of our Climate Survey report recommendations had suggested that. Christine said that she would inquire about this from Paul Alberto, Chair of the Executive Committee. Olga suggested that since faculty evaluations are within the purview of the Faculty Affairs Committee, perhaps our committee could form a joint subcommittee to work with them on this.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.