Cultural Diversity Committee
March 16, 2007
11:00 – 12:15
Minutes

Attendees: Peggy Albers, Susan Easterbrooks, Mary Finn, Christine Gallant, Mary Anne Gaunt, Olga Jarrett, Gary Longstreet, Jeremy Paden, John Peterson, Cora Presley

Absentees: Julie Ancis, Elisabeth Burgess, Pedro Carillo, Doris Derby, Amina Kirk, Linda Nelson, Jeremy Paden, Doug Podoll, Alaycia Reid, Natsu Saito, Leslie Taylor

The meeting called to order at 11:00 AM

Freshman Learning Communities (FLC)
Jeremy Paden discussed FLCs and the initial attempt to create courses that targeted African American males through an emphasis on course content that would be of interest to them. Recent data suggest that a higher percentage of African American males in are involved in FLCs, compared to the percentages of other groups’ involvement, though the numbers of African American who participate in FLCs is lower because of their low enrollment in the university. According to data collected from 2005-2006 the majority of FLCs promote some form of diversity. The University is expecting 2500 freshmen for Fall 2007 and plans to accommodate 55 students in the FLCs.

Perspectives Courses
Cora Presley is attempting to locate the original intent and guidelines for Perspectives courses. She commented that Perspectives courses are being approved and offered even when they do not follow the original Senate-approved guidelines that govern the courses. She would like our committee to address this and other issues with the Perspective Committee. Christine Gallant and John Peterson commented that the original Senate rationale for Perspective requirement would have only been used for the Senate’s review and could have possibly been discarded.

Christine suggested that the recommendations from the Racial Climate Survey be used as to support amending the guidelines for Perspectives courses. John Peterson proposed a motion that the Perspectives on Culture Committee be made aware of the results of the Racial Climate Survey, wherein students requested that a required diversity course be offered at the University. The motion passed.

504 ADA
Susan Easterbrooks stated that a meeting is scheduled for March 22 with the Provost to discuss ways that the campus might achieve better access for disabled students through compliance with the ADA guidelines. Thus far funds have been distributed to address critical issues such as access of the disabled to entrances/exits and restrooms. However, there has been no attempt to implement other modifications to make the campus accessible for the disabled.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30PM

Minutes prepared by Attiyya Mujahid