Cultural Diversity Committee Minutes
10/10/2007
10AM – 11AM
Location: 718G

Present: Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Eric Blacknall, Elisabeth Burgess, Douglass Covey, Doris Derby, Susan Easterbrooks, Dana Fox, Christine Gallant, Olga Jarrett, Gary Longstreet, Kathryn McClymond, Shif Gurmu, Cora Presley, Ruth Stanford, Upkar Varshney.


Meeting called to order at 10:05AM

Cora Presley amended the minutes of the September minutes meeting relating to the “Perspectives” courses to read: “Cora Presley said that based on the 2005 Climate Survey the subcommittee on the “Perspectives” courses recommended that there is a need for diversity in the curriculum which may be misapplied within the Perspectives courses. She also noted that the initial guidelines for Perspectives courses were not presently being followed (i.e, graduate students teaching courses that are supposed to be led by faculty). The subcommittee plans to compose a letter to the Undergraduate Council to address these problems, and will forward a draft of the letter to Marva Carter and Doug Podoll for feedback.”

The minutes were approved as corrected.

At the September meeting, Olga Jarrett noted that the College of Education faculty evaluations did not include a section on diversity. Christine Gallant submitted the recommendation that all University faculty evaluations include a question about classroom support of diversity to the Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee, Cecilia Grindell, for further review at its November meeting.

Susan Easterbrooks informed the committee that the Disability Awareness Day activities would be held on 10/17 in Rooms 480 & 485 of the University Center. The committee encouraged GSU students to attend by using incentives such as extra credit for attendance. The event will include simulation activities and booths on careers within the fields of Physical Therapy and Special Education. The committee has organized a team of 20 students and 6 faculty members from the College of Education to assist with simulation activities and creating handouts for the event. Giveaways such as post-it notepads with Office of Disabilities Services information will be distributed. Doris Derby stated that the Office of African American Student Programs and Services would donate drinks.

Susan also reported that Leslie Taylor, who was not present, is currently working on the Campus Access Map and an interactive website for the university.

Susan also commented that an email was sent to the VP of External Affairs regarding the sidewalk repair project, and learned that the costs are still being negotiated with the City of Atlanta but would be assessed at the rate when the original sidewalk inspection was made.

Doris Derby and the African-American Male Initiative subcommittee met on October 1. The subcommittee has been charged to develop a plan for a program in which faculty would mentor African-American male students. At the meeting the committee discussed details for the startup of such a program:
Christine Gallant asked whether the committee thought that she should get the Provost’s approval for this mentorship program, but both Doug Covey, VP-Student Services, and Cora Presley, SFA of Underrepresented Faculty, thought that it would be best to send a final, detailed proposal to the Provost rather than a preliminary one. Shif Gurmu asked whether the development of the African American male mentorship program would be part of a larger mentorship initiative. Doris Derby commented that the mentorship program is not, at the moment, part of a larger mentorship initiative but a response to the BOR mandate to aid in the solution of recruitment and retention of African American males at GSU. Christine added that she had asked our Legal Affairs Office about the legality of developing such a program for one minority; and, after checking with the Regents Legal Office, we were told that we would still be following the Regents’ mandate by doing so and to proceed if we wished.

Christine stated that she would email the committee the results of the 2005 Undergraduate Racial Climate Climate Survey.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30

Minutes prepared by Attiyya Mujahid