Cultural Diversity Committee Minutes
1/9/08
10:05 AM – 10:55 AM
Location: 718G

Present: Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Eric Blacknall, Elisabeth Burgess, Marva Carter, Fred Childs, Douglass Covey, Doris Derby, Jeremy Diem, Susan Easterbrooks, Dana Fox, Christine Gallant, Gabe Kuperminc, Kathryn McClymond, Linda Nelson (proxy), Cora Presley, Ruth Stanford, Marolyn Wells.


The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM

Minutes of December meeting were approved as read.

The committee was updated on present and future initiatives of the Disability Initiatives Committee. Leslie Taylor was in class, so Christine Gallant read from her email about the progress of the Campus Maps for the disabled project. So far, her graduate students have completed background research determining the strengths of the Disability Services and University websites. They researched other University websites and mapping systems, and created and administered a questionnaire to survey the needs of GSU students and staff with disabilities. Then they went from campus building to building to take pictures of curb cuts, restrooms, etc. They created a prototype showing the links and how the map would look on the GSU website, and compiled a list of resources for those with disabilities. Their goal now is to complete the editing with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (ODS), to discuss the survey results, complete the mapping of the parking lots, and then work to get this on the GSU website.

Christine then spoke about two present related initiatives of the DIC relating to fund allocation for ADA-repairs by MRRF, discussed at the December meeting. She and Frank Whittington have set up an ad hoc Task Force to review the proposed Policy on Priorities for Fund Allocations to be used by MRRF. This includes Sandra Garber, a present member of MRRF as well as the Executive Committee, and Wendy Hensel, a non-senator Law professor who specializes in disability law. Christine has just sent the proposal to add two DIC members to MRRF and the draft policy to the Task Force for their consideration.

Susan Easterbrooks spoke about another present DIC initiative, which is the implementation of the Web Accessibility Policy just approved by the Administrative Council in August 2007. It seeks to assure technological access by the disabled to University websites, courses, and online business. Susan’s previous ADA/504 Committee and also the Senate IS&T Committee have worked on this for seven years. While it is a comprehensive policy, the problem is that there seems to be no accountability in it: no unit that is responsible for implementing it, and no office willing to monitor compliance. The ODS is designated in the policy to monitor the campus compliance, but its Director is unwilling to do so because of the small size of the ODS. The Regents have such an Accessibility Policy that they wish all USG institutions to follow, so we are concerned about implementing ours. Susan added that the next issue for the DIC will be the personal safety of the
Dana Fox next reviewed the mission of her Office for the Advancement of Women and discussed the three areas of her planned initiatives: improving communication about the office, staff initiatives, and faculty initiatives. She asked for input on her two planned faculty projects: brown bag lunches between female Associate and Full Professors, and support seminars for those who wish to advance into the ranks of the academic executives. Suggestions followed.

Marolyn Wells: seminar subjects could include personnel management techniques for those wishing to advance into the executive ranks, such as authority issues and how to manage personnel. Dana asked her to serve on the panel for the seminars, and she agreed.

Gabe Kuperminc: Lisa Armstead in his own department of Psychology has just been promoted to Full Professor and Associate Chair, and might be contacted.

Susan Easterbrooks: Similarly, Joyce Many has been promoted to Associate Dean in the College of Education.

Marolyn also discussed the upcoming Third Biannual Cultural Competency Conference on March 27-28.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.