Cultural Diversity Committee Minutes
2/13/08
10:30AM – 11:30AM
Location: 718G


Absent: Lauren Bradford, Elisabeth Burgess, Pedro Carrillo, Doris Derby, Jeremy Diem, Susan Easterbrooks, Valerie Fennell, Dana Fox, Skye Hardesty, Amina Kirk, Kathryn McClymond, Doug Podoll, Leslie Taylor, Upkar Varshney, Marolyn Wells.

Meeting called to order at 10:30AM.

The minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were approved as read.

Christine Gallant announced that a feature article on Leslie Taylor’s campus map project for the disabled appeared on the front page of the most recent Signal.

Susan Easterbrooks and Christine updated the committee on the implementation issues for the Web Accessibility Policy that were discussed at the last meeting. The question of responsibility for overseeing compliance with the policy appears to have been resolved, for the President has just sent out a campus-wide email stating that the University Core Web Committee has been designated to implement the Web Accessibility Policy and oversee its compliance.

Christine next asked the committee to vote on the proposal from the Disability Initiatives Committee (DIC) that our committee had discussed at its last meeting. Since our last meeting, the two related proposals on the MRRF membership and funds allocation policy had been considered by the Budget Committee on Jan. 24. Its chair Hugh Hudson appointed a subcommittee to review our proposals and make recommendations before the committee voted on it as a whole. This subcommittee chair had contacted Christine to suggest amendments: the two proposals should be combined into one, the requirement should be deleted that DIC would review the possible ADA-projects to be funded, and the priorities policy should apply only to the Regulatory projects considered by Facilities Management Services. Christine explained the projected time-table for committee approval before a vote of the full Senate on March 13: Cultural Diversity would vote at this meeting (Feb. 13), Budget would vote on Feb. 14, and Planning & Development would vote on Feb. 18. Our committee voted unanimously to approve the proposal as amended by the Budget Committee.

Next, Cora Presley reported on discussions at recent meetings of the Committee on Academic Programs (CAP) on the Perspectives on Comparative Culture (2001) and the GSU 1010 courses. According to Senate Bylaws, CAP oversees these University-designated courses. There has been concern by members of CAP that the original purpose of the Perspectives 2001 courses has not been fulfilled and that courses having little to do with racial/ethnic diversity have been approved. Also, there have been cases where staff members and graduate students have taught the courses, although the original guidelines specify that regular faculty are to teach them. In addition, some faculty members who have taught GSU 1010 have complained to CAP about the pedagogical methodology of some of those teaching the related diversity unit in the 1010 courses. The Undergraduate Council of CAP is now investigating these University-designated courses.

Christine recommended attending the English Department’s conference for teachers on “Critical Approaches
to Teaching African American Literature” that will be held on March 15. Peggy Albers stated that she will send out an explanatory email relating to this to the committee members to distribute to their departments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.