Present: Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Eric Blacknall, Annette Butler, Doug Covey, Denise Donnelly, Christine Gallant, MaryAnne Gaunt, Shif Gurmu, Beth Gylys, Kaveh Manizad, Cora Presley, Kenee Stephens.


The April 8 minutes were read and Annette Butler corrected the name of her office. The minutes then were approved as corrected.

Christine Gallant was nominated and seconded as chair of the committee. There were no other nominations, and Christine was voted chair.

Christine noted that Cora Presley had suggested that it would be an excellent idea for our committee to show our appreciation to Dr. Ron Henry for his ongoing support of diversity initiatives over the years on the occasion of his retirement, and asked the committee to approve this letter:

“The University Senate Cultural Diversity Committee wishes to express its appreciation to Dr. Ron Henry for his continuing support and funding of diversity initiatives as Academic Provost. We are sure that this support has helped to create a flourishing climate for the nationally recognized diversity of Georgia State University today. These initiatives include:

The 1999 Task Force for the Advancement of Women; the 1999 formation of the Office for the Advancement of Women, and establishment of the Senior Faculty Associate for the Advancement of Women; the 1999 Task Force for the Action Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of Racial Minority Faculty (the report of this Task Force was the basis for the University Policy on the Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Faculty, approved by the University Senate in 2001); the 1999 formation of the Office for Underrepresented Faculty, and establishment of the Senior Faculty Associate for Underrepresented Faculty; the 2005 LGB Campus Climate Survey; the 2005 Undergraduate Racial Climate Survey; and the 2008 Task Force to create the Campus Accessibility Map for the Disabled.

Our committee wishes Dr. Henry an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement, and thanks him for his continuing recognition of the importance of encouraging diversity among its students and faculty.”

The committee unanimously approved the letter. Kaveh Manizad volunteered to format it with an attractive font, and Christine said that she would then print it out on parchment and deliver it to Provost Henry’s office.

Christine asked committee members to sign up for subcommittees next year, and
suggested that members contact her over the summer if any thought of issues for the committee to
address in 2009-2010.

MaryAnne Gaunt suggested that there is a need to centralize information about what our committee is doing and the issues it is working on. She suggested establishing a Resource section on our committee web site on diversity policies and reports.

Cora suggested that our committee could have an annual report to the Senate on the state of the University in regards to various diversity issues. She noted that the annual committee report on the progress made on minority faculty recruiting and retention can be found on the web site of the Provost and WEAVE, as well as on the web site for this committee.

Christine asked everyone present to send back information on the available meeting times for next year so she can schedule a meeting-time as quickly as possible and reserve a room.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Minutes Submitted by:
Eva Hill