Cultural Diversity Committee
Minutes for September 10, 2009


Absent: Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Eric Blacknall, Douglass Covey, Denise Donnelly, Susan Easterbrooks, Valerie Fennell, Heather Housley, William Robinson.

The meeting began at 11:05 a.m.

Christine Gallant spoke about this year’s subcommittees. The African American Male Initiative (AAMI) subcommittee, chair Doris Derby, will continue as its Black Male Undergraduate Mentoring Program with OASS&P will continue. The Disability Initiatives Committee, chair Susan Easterbrooks, is filled, but their subcommittees on the accessibility website and the parking/transportation for the disabled will continue. The Executive Staffing Diversity Committee, chaired by Annette Butler, will also continue.

Christine said that Denise Donnelly, the SFA-Advancement of Women asked her to report that the new Provost Risa Palms supports divorcing leave from the issue of tenure clock delay.

Elisabeth Burgess, chair of the Student Life and Development Committee, asked for the committee review and approve proposed changes in the Student Conduct Code for the process of a discriminatory harassment complaint: 5 business days from the date of the complaint would now be allowed for the Pre-Hearing Panel to be constituted, instead of the present 3 days; and the faculty member from the Senate committee on this panel could be drawn from the Student Life and Development or Student Discipline committees as well as the Cultural Diversity Committee. After discussion, the committee unanimously approved the proposed changes.

The committee next discussed various campus issues surrounding diversity, particularly the widespread failure of able-bodied students to allow disabled students to have access on the elevators, particularly the wheelchair-bound students. Kaveh Mazinad said that he would contact the Signal about a possible article on this.

Kaveh also informed the committee about his attempt in the SGA to pass a resolution for a policy to allow ESL students to take extra time on tests, as the disabled students were allowed. This motion had been tabled by the SGA. Committee discussion of this followed about possible ways in which the resolution could be fine-tuned and presented with evidence that ESL students are justified in requiring such extra time, as the disabled students must present.

MaryAnne Gaunt, a member on the Executive Committee of Staff Council, reported that they wished to know what is being done to welcome the returning servicemen to campus. It was reported that the Admissions & Standards Committee is now considering this matter.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.