Cultural Diversity Committee
Minutes for Oct. 14, 2010
3:00-4:00 p.m.

Present: Eric Blacknall, Elisabeth Burgess, Annette Butler, Doris Derby, Susan Easterbrooks, Christine Gallant, Joel Glogowski, Gabe Kuperminc, Layli Maparyan, Jeff Pruett.

Absent: Peggy Albers, Julie Ancis, Fred Brooks, Douglass Covey, Nick Demos, Denise Donnelly, Valerie Fennell, MaryAnne Gaunt, Shif Gurmu, Beth Gyllys, Cora Presley (on medical leave), William Robinson, Tai Wang, Tanya Washington.

Guests: Linda Nelson, John Day.

Susan Easterbrooks updated the committee on the progress of campus disability initiatives. Our annual Disability Awareness Day on October 3 was well-attended. The Disability White Paper has been removed from the web-page of the Strategic Planning Committee, for they considered that it should be implemented at once, rather than waiting for it to become part of the Strategic Plan structure that would not be approved by the Senate till January. The main request of their White Paper was the creation of a new Associate Provost for Disability.

Next, Linda Nelson updated us on the Diversity Strategic Plan (DSP) which was approved Sept. 1 by the Diversity Strategic Planning Committee. It has been vetted by the Technical Writers Association. Linda took my concerns about the inclusion of LGBTQ faculty in the “Faculty Goal” section to Kerry Heyward in Legal Affairs, and the Plan was adjusted. Our Faculty Diversity White Paper has been added as an Appendix. Within about a week, the DSP should be finished and presented to the general GSU community for input, and possible further revisions based on this input. Diversity Forums will be held in November to answer any questions the general community may have about the Plan. There will be a Provost-appointed Task Force to oversee the Plan’s implementation.

Jeff Pruett noted that we should be aware that politically our Plan may bring criticism so that GSU has to retreat on its implementation, and if this happens it will be worse for the LGBTQ community than having no voice at all. He recommended that we should be cautious in “pushing the envelope.” Linda said that she will be meeting with Tom Lewis (of the Office of External Affairs) for advice on getting political support. She added that the DSP was expected to be available on Oct. 22 online.

There being no other business, the committee adjourned.

Recorded by: Christine Gallant