

Diversity Council
Thursday, March 31, 2011
And
Thursday, April 7, 2011
Dogwood B
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Attending:

Patty Blackwell, Facilities Services
Pam Davis, Director of Human Resources
Jan Hargrove, Director of Teaching Fellows
Danny Green, Associate VP for Enrollment, Diversity Council Chair
Donna Knott, Secretary to Council
Sarah May, Apartment Manager, The Oaks
Miranda McCall, Assistant Director of Financial Assistance
Kevin Morrison, Associate Director of Study Abroad & International Student Advisor
Tomecca Sloane, Director of Commuter Life and Diversity Programs
Allyna Stone, Alumna Representative

Not Attending:

Dorothy Ashworth, Alumna Representative
Brittany Frieson, Student Representative, SGA Unity Chair
Cameron Johnson, Art Instructor
Wetonah Parker, Professor, School of Education and Director, Teacher Education

Guests:

Ann Gleason, Dean of Students
Beth Meier, Director of Counseling Center
Cindy Edwards, Director of Undergraduate Research (4-7-11 only)

SYNOPSIS

Back to back meetings were held. Synopsis information is consolidated into one document.

Welcome- Danny welcomed members and guests at both meetings.

Lunch Discussion – 3-31-11 Members briefly discussed strategic planning strategies. The 2010 Vision has expired so a campus committee has been developing a new strategic plan that will help direct the college direction over the next 5 years. Conversation surrounded “who we are,” the impacts of identifying as a college or university, and diversity education on campus. The previous strategic plan set goals for diversity that should be discussed as the campus moves forward. Conversation will continue at the April meeting.

Understanding Gender Issues – 3-31-11 Guests Ann Gleason and Beth Meier along with members Tomecca Sloane and Miranda McCall provided members an update on their committee’s research into transgendered student issues. Student initiated conversation has come forward and serves as the impetus of this review for possible policy and practice change. Prior to the meeting, members were provided a couple of articles to prepare for the conversation. Strategies, terminology, and considerations of other women’s colleges were shared. Meredith’s current practices were discussed and analyzed. Future discussion issues on this effort were discussed. They included:

- Conducting policy discussions
- Environmental discussions – rooms, bathrooms
- Procedures – terminology, gender neutral language
- Impact of directions of decisions – feel before thinking
- Integrity/Honesty – live who you are
- Education aspects – faculty, staff, students, community
- Broader discussions
- Student support

In order to further the conversation, Ann and Beth were invited back to the April 7th meeting.

4-7-11 Members continued the conversation of understanding gender issues. Gleason’s committee has initiated conversation with the Spectrum organization. There is a commitment to making solid decisions through an understanding of the issues and concerns. There has been noticed “widening of conversation” on campus and with prospective students in regard to gender issues and sexual orientation. Additional educational opportunities are needed about these and other diversity issues. No matter what decisions are made, support of the students is critical.

Diversity Grants – 3-31-11 Grant applications were discussed. Six applications were received. With one exception, funds were awarded to support the projects. Danny will send an announcement to the requestors. A detailed list of funded grants is attached.

Celebrating Student Achievement Day – 3-31-11 Members briefly discussed the abstracts that were selected for recognition and the mechanics of the day. **4-7-11** Cindy Edwards was present to clarify any concerns about the CSA Day event. Members reviewed the list of nominated projects and determined who would make the individual presentations. Members will again serve as hosts along with the Meredith Hues students during the poster session and the lunch break.

Announcements – None

Next meeting – Thursday, April 28, 2011 – 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Dogwood B.

Meetings on both 3-31-11 and 4-7-11 adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Knott