



**President's Commission on Diversity
January 10, 2008
Room 306 Main Building
Minutes**

Members Present: Chike Anyaegbunam, Oscar Arevalo, Patty Bender, Mary Bolin-Reece, Lori Gonzalez, Bessie Guerrant, Sara Jones, Michael Lee, Rob Mullens, Pat Thompson (for Lionel Williamson), Jeff Dembo, Karen Slaymaker, Lina Crocker, Gail Hairston, Sharon Taylor New, Allan G. Richards, Alvin Seals, Rakesh Kandibanda and Linda Rakes

Members Absent: Oscar Arevalo, Druscilla Bakert, Chester Grundy, Vanessa Jackson, Ibrahim Jawahir, Jane Kirschling, Richard Sutphen, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Chris Harper, Isabel Taylor

Welcome and Call to Order: **Allan G. Richards**

Dr. Richards called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: **Allan G. Richards**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lina Crocker and seconded by Lori Gonzalez. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote with no changes.

Chair Report **Allan G. Richards**

This past semester has been a productive one for the Commission. The Strategic Plan was approved and put into place as a focal point for where the Commission is to go with the idea in mind that this plan would move the institution toward one that would become diverse and inclusive. The committees are working hard to come up with indicators and policies that will lead to the ultimate goal of the strategic plan which is intended to pull all facets of diversity across campus together. Currently it is hard to determine where the institution is with regard to diversity at any given point. The strategic plan is in motion to accomplish this goal. Thank you to all the committee members who are working so diligently toward their perspective goals in determining where the institution is currently and planning where we need to be to create a diverse and inclusive campus climate.

The PCD meetings in April and May will be conducted to brainstorm the committees work and to devise plans for accomplishing goals as determined by the perspective committees.

By-Laws Committee:

Bessie Guerrant

The By-Laws, with some minor changes in wording, were presented to the Commission members at the December 13, 2007 meeting. The members were requested to review these changes and a vote to approve will be taken at the January meeting. A motion was made to accept the proposed changes to the By-Laws by Lori Gonzalez. The motion was seconded by Patty Bender. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Undergraduate Student

Mary Bolin-Reece, Committee Chair, reported that the committee will meet again on January 31, 2008. The committee is currently trying to determine indicators for establishing goals.

Graduate and Professional Student Affairs

Jane Kirschling

The committee will meet again next Monday and will brainstorm on implementing goals and a plan for carrying out these goals.

Faculty and Staff Affairs

Vanessa Jackson

Committee is working to define indicators.

Engagement and Public Relations

Richard Sutphen

Gail Hairston reported that this committee has met twice since December and they are currently reviewing the NSSEE and campus climate Survey to obtain indicators.

New Business

Allan G. Richards

VPID Candidates

Dr. Richards announced that the VPID candidate, Dr. JJ Jackson would be on campus on January 9, 2008 and the Commission would meet with her at 2:00pm in Room 107, Main Building. Dr. Overtun Jenda, the second VPID candidate would be on campus and would meet with members of the commission on January 17, 2008 at 11:00am in Room 107, Main Building. These two VPID candidates will also be having open forums for campus involvement. The open forum for Dr. Jackson will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm in room 209, Main Building. The open forum for Dr. Overtoun Jenda will be on Thursday, January 17, 2008 from 3:30pm to 4:30 pm in room 209, Main Building. All PCD members are encouraged to attend. Evaluation forms for

each candidate has been sent to the members and Dr. Richards is requesting that these be completed and returned to him. He in turn, will compile an evaluation of each candidate based on information received and present it on behalf of the Commission. Commission members were encouraged to attend these forums.

President's Awards for Diversity Ceremony

Dr. Richards requested feedback on the structure for the diversity awards ceremony indicating that this event could best serve the campus community as a whole by revamping how the ceremony is planned. After discussion, the commission determined that for the current year, the ceremony should be scaled down by having a local key note speaker and just holding the awards ceremony as has been done in the past. The commission will work toward revamping the diversity awards ceremony for next year by creating a day long event that will engage the campus community with the idea of creating a diverse and inclusive climate and concluding the day's event with the diversity awards ceremony.

The President's Diversity Awards ceremony has been scheduled for April 17, 2008 at 4:00pm. Location is to be determined. A call for nominations along with the nomination form will be put on the website and sent to HR for circulation.

Adjourn:

Allan G. Richards

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mary Bolin-Reece and seconded by Michael Lee. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.