

President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
September 19, 2012

Attendance: E. Abreu, M. Cascarano, J. Chern, M. Coleman Carter, M. Colón, I. Cordero, C. Cottle, D. Davis, C. Drost, R. Gano, A. Gomez, A. Jeffers, L. Jenkins, L. Johns, R. Jones, D. Keiser, B. Lin, A. Mayer, D. McMorrin, C. Meneghin, Milton, B. Montañez, J. Penney, B. Peterson, D. Phillips-Clark, W. Poon, M. Re, D. Rodak, R. Royal, T. Seaboch, L. Smith, L. Whitaker

I. Welcome:

Meneghin called meeting at 12:15 p.m. New members were welcomed and the passing of current member Randal Young and former member John Dennis were acknowledged.

Johns made a motion that the May 2012 minutes be approved; Peterson seconded. The May 2012 minutes were approved.

II. New Business

President Cole's Annual Charge

President Cole's charge included two issues for the Commission to consider:

1. Addressing the increasing academic achievement gap between male and female students. There is a serious achievement gap, with female students graduating at a faster rate than male students. The social consequences must be evaluated especially in minority populations. President Cole noted that cultural factors also come into play when examining the issue of minority male student representation, and that a different perspective about academic achievement must be created within this population because the social consequences and implications of not addressing this problem are enormous.
2. Addressing the issue of religious tolerance. There has been increased religious anger and violence recently portrayed throughout the world that need to be discussed. Issues surrounding freedom of speech vs. hatred, intolerance fear and ignorance need to be explored. President Cole noted that when it comes to religion there is a difference in cultural views between our country and others. The charge is for the PCAAEOD help promote the discussion on religious tolerance and understanding within our community.

Reminders

Members were reminded:

- a. Sign up to a sub-committee
- b. There are only 3 meetings in the Fall semester, 3 in the Spring plus the Advance
- c. Use the Blackboard account to share information and to communicate
- d. \$5,000 annual budget, of which approximately \$2,000 will be allocated to the Diversity Committee for sponsorship opportunities

- e. Description of the Commission – A handout was distributed.
- f. Confidentiality – Everything said is confidential, unless it is official. Members should feel that they can express their opinions and perspective freely.

III. New Business

Creation of Blog Page

Peterson and Penney will coordinate the development of the blog, which will be used to post messages and activities, as well as allow for commentary. Meneghin will review content for approval. The blog will be accessible via Facebook. The first entries include the Combat Paper project, LASO's "First Impressions" project and a statement on cultural views of religious beliefs.

Affirmative Action Day

A discussion was had on this year's topic, including using this opportunity for an interfaith panel on spirituality. A second idea revolved around students feeling targeted based on their religious beliefs. The Executive Committee will come up with ideas for Affirmative Action Day based on recommendations received.

Mentoring Male Students

A conversation was had on promoting activities on campus on mentoring male student groups. Suggestions included getting faculty and staff to mentor, contacting advisors to campus fraternities, and creating an activity for students to attend. The Diversity Committee was charged with looking into this issue and bringing recommendations for discussion.

IV. Other

A suggestion was made to make the PCAEOD more visible to student groups.

Jones mentioned Constitution Day on September 27th, encouraging members to attend the keynote event.

Rodak thanked the Commission for the sponsorship towards the "Combat Paper" project.

- V.** Keiser motioned to adjourn the meeting; Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón and B. Milton