

Meeting Minutes: Diversity Committee February 4, 2014

Present: Angela Palmer, Nicholas Campau, Leroy Wright, Amy Otteson, and Renee VanderMyde

Absent: Angela Garrey, Matt Chaney, and Mickey Albright

Angela shared with the committee that she and Nicholas had previously met to review our Student Affairs website and discuss ways to improve upon it. Angela handed out a copy of the front page of our current website to the committee to review and asked for their suggestions for improvements. Angela also provided pages from other University's Student Affairs Diversity websites so that the committee could compare with our own. Both Nicholas and Angela shared that Franklin Hughes, Video, Graphic, and Media Specialist in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, has offered to assist us in improving our website. The committee agreed that our website should include a mission, statement, and goals which highlight our dedication to diversity on our campus. Nicholas and Angie agreed to work on drafting a mission statement in which the committee can review at the next meeting and provide feedback. Once we have this task complete, Leroy will share it with the Vice President of Student Affairs for her approval. Some further suggestions for improvement to the website are as follows:

- Better visual pictures: Possibly having rotating pictures much like our Ferris homepage provides, including a quote within each picture.
- Providing a feedback page where our students/faculty/staff can answer questions regarding how they view diversity on our campus, what types of programming that they would like to see, etc.
- Including the Campus Pride Index.
- Including a Student Affairs Diversity Newsletter where we spotlight or interview a specific employee of the division each month.

Leroy shared that there will be a new due date for our annual Student Affairs Diversity Report. From this point on, our report will be targeted toward the fiscal year instead of an academic year calendar. We will need to make an addendum to the report that we recently submitted to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, adding this Spring semester highlights/activities/challenges to the report.

Leroy handed out a copy of an article titled, “Culturally Competent Crisis Response,” for the committee members to read. Leroy suggests that we all should think about how crisis impacts different cultural groups and concentrate on the culturally competent services that we can provide in a crisis situation. Interpretations of police involvement or other crisis-type behaviors of our Ferris Administrative staff could impact others differently. It is important to remember that for some of our students, each crisis may not impact them directly but may impact them indirectly.

Submitted by: Angela Palmer
Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Student Life