Curriculum sub-committee of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee

Minutes of the Wednesday, November 05, 2008 meeting

Attendance: Matt Ciscel, Catherine, Kurkjian Wujun Wang, Eleanor Thornton, Beth Merenstein, Carolyn Fallahi, Bobbie Koplowitz, Awilda Reascow

I. Dr. Merenstein brought up issues related to the general education objectives. She asked for input on the wording of these objectives. The objectives were re-written based on the discussion.

Objective #2: To develop global awareness, historical perspective, and appreciation of social and cultural diversity in the World. Relevant outcomes include: analyzing an issue from the perspective of another cultural tradition or historical period; understanding and respecting culture differences; developing and demonstrating an ability to read, write, speak, and understand a second language.

Objective #9: To recognize issues of social equity and social justice in the United States. Relevant Outcomes: Recognizing the diverse forms and effects of social and economic inequality; and understanding bias and discrimination in the United States based on individual and group factors such as race, color, religious creed, age, sex, language, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, and mental or physical disability.

Objective #10: To develop and encourage the practice of civic responsibility. Outcomes include: involvement in the campus, local or other communities; taking a public stance on a community issue (either in a classroom or public setting); and demonstrating the ability to understand and analyze public issues and public affairs from the perspective of the larger community.

II. D-designation courses. This is similar to international courses. They are not a separate course. Dr. Merenstein was awarded a grant to run a workshop this past summer and train five professors in redesigning their courses to include diversity. This was a huge time commitment for Dr. Merenstein and we finished with a discussion about the possibility of having a permanent coordinator of this program and issues related to funding that person, e.g. release time, including it in the budget, etc. We will meet again in one week to continue this discussion and put together a presentation for the faculty senate diversity committee.
III. Diversity website. One suggestion related to diversity programming involved having a permanent website set up for diversity materials that would be made available to faculty and staff.

IV. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12th, 2:00. Room to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn R. Fallahi