COMMITTEE FOR A MULTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Minutes of 28 October 1997  
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PRESENT: J Cameron, L Kleinsmith (SACUA Liaison), R Megginson, C Ransom, CB Smith (Chair), S Salaam (Secretary)  
ABSENT: J McGowan, S Stone, W-J Yang

The meeting was called to order at 5:27 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The agenda was approved without modification.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
L Kleinsmith and C Smith reported that at its last meeting the Senate Assembly had adopted resolutions (a) that supported past University admissions policies (see below) and (b) that requested the Regents to divest the University of its investments in companies that manufacture and/or sell tobacco products.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 1997, were deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

SENATE ASSEMBLY ACTION ON THE CMU RESOLUTION DEALING WITH A FACULTY POSITION ON THE PENDING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION LAW SUIT
C Smith reported that at its meeting on Monday, October 27, 1997, the Senate Assembly adopted the resolution on admissions policy and practices that had been developed at the last Committee meeting and submitted to SACUA and the Senate Assembly. The vote of the Assembly was 37 in favor and 1 opposed, with no abstentions. Members of the Committee who were present at the Senate Assembly meeting were L Kleinsmith, R Megginson and C Smith. L Kleinsmith and R Megginson reported on the discussion that preceded the vote of the Senate Assembly. They suggested that Senate Assembly members seemed eager to address further issues related to the charge to the Committee. L Kleinsmith noted that now would be a good time to bring to the Senate Assembly a more comprehensive statement on diversity than the one adopted by the Assembly in March, 1996. L Kleinsmith and R Megginson agreed to review the original statement on diversity, sent by the Committee to the Senate Assembly during the 1995-96 academic year, and the diversity statement on which the Committee was working during the past academic year. They will present a draft statement that incorporates concepts from the two previous statements at the next Committee meeting.
R Megginson suggested that the Committee attempt to determine those diversity issues that might be of greatest interest to members of the Senate Assembly. C Smith agreed to draft an email message that would be sent to all members of the Senate Assembly that would be designed to determine which issues the Assembly would like the Committee to address.

REPORT ON PRESIDENT BOLLINGER'S FIRST "STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY" ADDRESS TO THE SENATE ASSEMBLY AS IT PERTAINS TO CMU INTERESTS

R Megginson led a discussion of the comments that President Bollinger had made with respect to the lawsuit brought recently against the University over its admissions policies and practices and with respect to the value of diversity in the University community. R Megginson observed that, because of his new position as University President, L Bollinger needed to clearly identify his stance on Affirmative Action. Megginson added that Bollinger expressed the opinion that the University community would suffer were the lawsuit to prevail. C Smith suggested that the lawsuit creates a unique opportunity for the Committee to work with the University administration to promote diversity in both the faculty and student. R Megginson suggested that the President's comments did not address concerns of Native American students at the University and that such students might feel that they are being left out of the debate. Several Committee members commented that the current environment, created in part by lawsuits and legislative proposals, was demoralizing to students of color enrolled at the University. C Smith also noted that there had been a significant reduction in the number of such student who had applied this past year for admission as undergraduates to the University.

CLIMATE ISSUES

R Megginson observed that The Michigan Review and The Michigan Daily published articles, and in some cases cartoons, that made students of color feel unwelcome on the campuses of the University. He specifically mentioned a cartoon published in The Michigan Daily that showed Native Americans with tomahawks dancing around former President Duderstadt. C Ransom noted that within the African American student population there is an enormous amount of tension because of issues not directly related to academics, such as problems with financial aid. C Ransom presented to the Committee a series of reports of groups within the University that in the past have studies and reported on the recruitment and retention of students and faculty of color. He discussed briefly with the Committee a report by Nichols & Associates on the climate in the Medical School for students, faculty and house staff of color. C Smith said that he would send by email a copy of that report to the members of the Committee. C Ransom suggested that the Committee compile and compare the recommendations that accompanied these previous reports. C Smith urged the Committee to look at the recommendations submitted to Provost Whitaker by the Provost's "Blue Ribbon" Committee on the recruitment and retention of undergraduate students of color, a committee appointed by former Provost C Vest. C Ransom and S Stone agreed to work together to compile the recommendations of previous studies and reports for presentation at the next Committee meeting.
OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS
There was no old or new business.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 1997, in the Conference Room of the Student Activities Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Shareef A. Salaam, Secretary