COMMITTEE FOR A MULTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Minutes of: December 9, 2008

Approved on: February 13, 2009


Chair Evans convened the meeting at 11:34AM.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the November 11th meeting were approved with minor changes.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS
The committee participation is lacking, as some members have not attended meetings in the past 12 months or are no longer active in the University. The committee’s progress has been hindered by the absence of a SACUA liaison. Members agreed that the committee should formally ask SACUA to appoint a liaison.

Although the committee is officially an advisory committee to the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the committee has not had enough opportunities meeting with Lester Monts to fulfill its charge. Due to scheduling conflicts, Chair Evans privately meeting with L. Monts is a possibility. Nonetheless, the committee agreed that it should meet with L. Monts to discuss participation and general dissatisfaction. If this proves to be unfeasible, it was agreed that more the committee should contact the Provost. Chair Evans noted his disapproval.

CAMPUS CLIMATE
The committee remarked on the lack of cohesion and focus among groups. There seems to be a general sense that groups organizing faculty are unnecessary. In many disciplines, groups are institutionalized and run as a part of an administrative project. Under the guise of advancement, a power structure is imposed on these groups and grassroots ideas go unsupported. The committee remarked that the University must support grassroots groups and provide motivation for social change.

To this extent, C. Smith agreed to look into developing the survey on former faculty members’ perspectives. The committee agreed that a 3-year window would provide adequate responses without being too broad.
FACULTY PERSPECTIVES IN THE RECORD
R. Holland and J. Lee have completed an article about the Committee’s report. It will most likely be published in the second week of January after, following a vote, the committee signs the article.

The committee discussed the formation of a sub-committee to work on a progress report of the committee’s actions. T. Tsang, R. Holland and J. Lee were suggested as members.

Determining the committee’s audience was brought up. The committee was under the impression that the Provost had received and approved the committee’s report, but whether the Provost received the report remains vague. C. Smith moved to send the report to the Provost and to ask her support. The motion passed. The committee also agreed that the Provost should be invited to a meeting. Although she is very busy, interacting directly with the Provost will be beneficial.

OLD BUSINESS
The 2008-2009 hiring class study was revisited. Although the data has yet to be published, Chair Evans agreed that he would contact Anthony Walesby about the pool data.

A. Walesby did not attend a meeting as planned. The committee hopes to meet with him as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS
The Academic Women’s Caucus is presenting a Progress in Diversifying Award of $25,000 to award a department with outstanding equal representation and climate. However, funding for the award is unavailable. N. Mirkin presented a motion to endorse the award in the hopes that funding will become available. The motion passed.

The Winter 2009 schedule and meeting time is yet to be established.

ADJOURNMENT
Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 12:50PM.