Present: Donald H. DeHayes, Laura Beauvais, Cheryl Wilga, Delores Walters, Trish Morokoff, Peter Larsen, Lynne Derbyshire, Alycia Mosley Austin, Mary Cloud, Annu Matthew, Anita Jackson, Tammy Vargas Warner.

1. Announcements

   Cheryl Wilga was congratulated on recently obtaining a grant; Annu Matthew was congratulated on receiving a Fulbright.

   CDO Search: President has made a decision and will be offering the job to a candidate this week.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 4-18-12: approved

3. Discussion of task force status: Potential Faculty Senate committee, joint administration-Faculty Senate Committee, Academic Affairs Diversity Council, or other?

   Three years later, how do we structure the task force to move forward?
   • Stay as we are as a task force—assumes temporary/transitional status
   • Faculty Senate committee
   • Joint Faculty Senate and administration committee
   • Council—more advisory and membership is appointed

Comments:

   • Maybe leave undecided until the CDO is on board
   • Want to be clearly situated in Academic Affairs
   • Equity Council has established diversity committees in each division; there is no well-defined structure yet but should be forthcoming with new CDO
   • We don’t need to have the same relationship with Equity Council that the other diversity committees have
   • Should the committee be associated with Faculty Senate? There would be more structure with regard to membership and term limits
   • Are councils more loosely structured? Recommendations are made and term limits imposed
   • Concern about not having the right mix of people on the task force; having too much structure; getting “new blood” on the task force
• Leadership of the task force: should the Provost continue as chair? Having Provost continue sends a strong message of the importance of the work of the task force
• Should there be “Divisional Committees” as a different type of committee in the University Manual?
• Does task force imply short term and ad hoc?
• Perhaps should formalize having representatives from the Faculty Senate on the task force: UC Gen Ed, CAC, FacSen Executive Committee, others?
• Keep “Academic Affairs” in the title: Academic Affairs Diversity Council? We can formalize the membership; specify that one of the co-chairs of the Equity Council sit on the council; specify that there are some faculty senate representatives on the council
• What role do members of the college diversity committees play on this task force?
• CBUM might be consulted on the structure of committees as defined in the University Manual
• Who does the task force “report to?” Equity Council? And with whom do we need to have liaisons?
• Talk to new CDO over the summer about ideas

4. Reports from Task force Subcommittees and Membership

a. Multicultural Enhancement Funds
   i. Members: Alycia Austin, Anita Jackson, Jasmine Mena, Earl Smith.
   ii. RFP will be ready in about a month to kick off at the beginning of the Fall semester

b. Advancing Multicultural Competencies and Curriculum Development
   i. Working with University, college, and department curriculum committees, how do we diffuse the multicultural learning competencies developed by the task force?
   ii. Members: Trish Morokoff, Peter Larsen, Lynne Derbyshire, Earl Smith, Betsy Cooper
   iii. Should the task force contain members of college diversity committees? There are advantages and disadvantages to both sides of the issue. The common issue of all college diversity committees is multicultural curriculum, student recruitment and retention, and faculty recruitment and retention. Are the college committees being held accountable?

c. Faculty Development in Diversity and Multicultural Understanding
   i. College Diversity Committee Workshop, May 23, 2012
ii. Members: Delores Walters, Laura Beauvais, Marcia Morreira, Margaret Rogers, Anita Jackson, Barb Silver, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Tammy Vargas-Warner

Laura distributed tentative plan; suggestion to have Provost make lunch remarks; committees should bring strategic plans (they are on the Provost website); each college might also bring its diversity plan, if one exists.

Maybe we need more celebrations of our accomplishments that would inform the community about what has been done and recognizing its importance.

5. New Business

a. Bring multicultural competencies to the Senate next year for discussion: Peter Larsen

We should think strategically about this issue as the new general education program is being considered in the Faculty Senate. Perhaps have a forum on this topic rather than being voted upon and endorsed.

b. Other? Over the summer, Laura will ask if task force members want to remain on the committee and solicit suggestions for new members to join the committee.

Cheryl asked about grant-funded programs to support diverse students coming to URI. It was suggested that USDA might have some of these programs (RAP). NIH has RISE program. Might attract advanced undergraduate students to do research and then apply to graduate school. Opportunity this year to apply to the McNair Scholarship program.

Link to website: http://www.uri.edu/provost/planning/diversity.html