University of Massachusetts Amherst

Status of Diversity Council of the Faculty Senate
(SODC)

Meeting Date: May 6, 2013
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Location: Campus Center Room 903

Minutes

Present: Mzamo Mangaliso (co-chair), Ernie Washington (co-chair), Ingrid Holm, Doris Clemmons, Sharon M. Mills-Wisneski, Sergio Breña, Willie Hill, Annemarie Seifert, Nate Whitmal, Mari Castañeda, Jeung Choi, and Alice Nash

Apologies: Joel Martin, others?

Guests: None

Co-Chair Ernie Washington called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm, welcomed all present, and reviewed the agenda.

The minutes of April 1, 2013, were reviewed and approved as written by the present members.

Reports:

a.) Special meeting on SRTI-April 30, 2013:
   Ernie Washington reported a meeting held with MSP Planning and Negotiating Team to discuss looking at a variety of different evaluation methods to assess faculty in class performance. There was a discussion of a possible National meeting to discuss “What are the best practices for students’ evaluation of faculty.” This event tentatively set for mid-October 2013, will be a joint event with MSP. A discussion regarding concerning identifying a key speaker what the strategies will be to examine this problem.

b.) Follow-up discussions re: Student Athletes:
   Reported by Ernie Washington, the scheduled meeting was not held due to Mr. Collins (CMass) illness. This meeting will be rescheduled. Members received a handout that outlined the UMass athletic staff for both men’s and women’s sport, the handout showed the total number of athletic staff members and a breakdown of the total members according to racial lines. See chart below, which drew a discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UMass Athletics Staffs*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men’s Sports</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afr. Amer. 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*other total 3
c.) Special Meeting on JTFSO Strategic Plan:
The co-chairs reported on a meeting convened by Amilcar Shabazz to discuss diversity issues as they relate to the Strategic Plan. Representatives of the SODC, SOWC, CDAC, and the Dean of Students attended the meeting. It was suggested that if anyone had additional comments, they could submit them directly on a website that has been created to gather campus-wide feedback. Among the issues discussed was a concern that was raised by some about the level of student involvement.

d.) Chancellor’s Diversity Advisory Council:
There was no representative from the CDAC present at the meeting. A discussion that ensued focused on the question brought forth, “What would be effective means to recruit potential students from the Springfield area?”

Diversity Scorecard going forward:
Members reviewed the handout, “Toward a strategy for diversity and inclusion” (Mangaliso, 2013), and discussed how this information could be used to develop at least three (3) goals for the SODC for next year. Ernie Washington discussed developing a possible prototype, looking at a selected University’s colleges, using identify goals from the Diversity Scorecard. This matter will be discussion at the first fall meeting.

Other:
ESL Program Acting Director, Ingrid Holm, distributed a handout entitled, “Teaching of Academic English to International Students,” that contained concerns submitted to the JTFSO Draft Strategic Plan. Ingrid’s purpose was to inform the council members what her concerns were.

With no further discussion, the co-chairs wished everyone a healthy and safe summer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Mills-Wisneski,