

EQUITY, ACCESS & DIVERSITY
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2006

[In these minutes: Discussion with Admissions Director, Diversity Task Force Update]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Naomi Scheman, chair, Hawona Sullivan Janzen, Patricia Jones-Whyte, Carolyn Chalmers, Claire Walter-Marchetti, Richard Graff, Jennifer Gunn, Walt Jacobs, Jooinn Lee, Louis Mendoza, Joanna O'Connell, Lee Penn, Jonathan Bringewatt.

REGRETS: Rusty Barcelo, Susan Cable, Margaret Moss.

ABSENT: Don Cavalier, Anne Phibbs.

GUEST: Wayne Sigler, Kris Lockhart

I). Professor Scheman called the meeting to order.

II). Professor Scheman welcomed Wayne Sigler, Director of Twin Cities Admissions, to the meeting. She noted that an email was recently sent from the Provost discussing statistics on the incoming freshmen class. The committee is worried that an increased emphasis is being placed on test-score and class-rank statistics and not on increasing campus diversity. Members would like to know about the student application process, how individual attention is placed on applications, and how the students of color breakdown might have been affected this year by the closure of General College.

Wayne Sigler and the committee then had a closed discussion about the admissions process and its relation to early outreach, retention, and graduation of diverse students.

III). Professor Mendoza, co-chair of the Diversity Task Force, said that implementation of task force recommendations was put on hold last year until the new vice president was hired. He said that he and the other co-chair met with Vice President Rusty Barceló a few weeks ago, and now she is doing a climate and resource assessment of campus. Keys issues will be prioritization and centralizing resources.

There has been no follow-up from the President on recommendations from this task force or most others.

Professor Scheman suggested that members review the report, which is on the web at: http://www1.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic_positioning/tf_final_reports/diversity_final.pdf, and think of which recommendations would be appropriate for the committee to take to the University Senate for action.

IV). Professor Scheman distributed a publication from the Multicultural Awareness Project for Institutional Transformation (MAP IT) which she spoke about at the last meeting. She then said that she would contact Vice Provost and Dean Craig Swan to attend an upcoming meeting to follow-up on the discussion held today on admissions and looking at resources and space for students requiring more than four years to graduate. She would also have him discuss the

progress on the University's all-campus honors college and how multi-cultural transformation can be incorporated into its mission.

V). With no further business, Professor Scheman thanked members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate