

Faculty Senate

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Diversity Council

Annual Report 2005-2006

TO: Bill Boggess, OSU Faculty Senate President

FROM: Janet Nishihara, Diversity Council Chair

DATE: July 15, 2006

RE: Annual Report of the Faculty Senate Diversity Council

The Faculty Senate Diversity Council was resurrected this academic year after a hiatus for reorganization and restructuring. During the 2005-2006 academic year, the newly-reconstituted Diversity Council met and completed the following:

We worked on a revision of Standing Rules for the Faculty Senate Diversity Council which were approved at the June 8, 2006 Faculty Senate meeting. They now read as follows:

The Diversity Council addresses ongoing planning and implementation of university diversity initiatives, including equity, access, educational environment, and cultural competence. The Diversity Council has authority to make recommendations regarding policies and practices in areas of faculty development, recruitment and retention of faculty and students, scholarship/research and curriculum in consultation with appropriate standing committees, if applicable. The Diversity Council also provides a forum for communication among faculty regarding OSU's diversity related activities.

The Diversity Council reports directly to the Faculty Senate.

The Council consists of seven faculty members, with at least three being teaching faculty. There shall be two student members, one of whom may be the Multicultural Affairs Task Force Director, or designee. In addition, ex-officio, non-voting members shall include the Director of Community and Diversity, the Director of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, and the Director of Difference, Power, and Discrimination, or designees.

The Council worked to integrate the new ex-officio members: representatives from Community and Diversity, Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, and Difference, Power, and Discrimination. We met several times with those representatives to help us determine future direction for the Council.

Additionally, the Council worked with Terry Ross, Director of Community and Diversity, in reviewing submitted Diversity Action Plans. One of the suggestions provided by the Council was to utilize the recommendations from the President's Commission on the Status of Women (PCOSW) in their recent report. This suggestion was passed on to those developing the Diversity Action Plans in their respective units and incorporated into several of the plans.

For next year, the Council will have full membership with a variety of faculty from across campus. We will need to start early in contacting student representatives to ensure their timely participation in the planning phase for the Council.