

March 2000

Committee on Community and Diversity

Annual Report

Members: Harry Amana, acting chair (Black Cultural Center) - Archie Ervin (Staff Advisory Member), Tiffany Black (undergraduate student), George Retsch-Bogart (Pediatrics), Laurie Charest (Assoc. Vice Chancellor, Human Resources); Richard Cramer (Sociology); Dorothy Holland (Chair, Anthropology); Melissa Exum (Student Affairs); Virginia Shea (Physiology); Gayle Shimokura (graduate student); Eboni Staton (undergraduate student); John Stephens (Institute of Government), Carla Sueta (Medicine); Adam Versenyi (Dramatic Arts), Cecil Wooten (Classics).

Charge: To monitor and make recommendations concerning the overall campus climate as it pertains to questions of diversity and discrimination.

Report of Activities: The Committee met in October, November, December, February and March. The committee:

* Invited Betsy Ayankoya (National Coalition Building Institute) to the committee and discussed with her the activities of NCBI's diversity leadership training. Recommended to the Chancellor that Ms. Ayankoya be invited to be a member of the committee.

* Reviewed the list of "Cultural Diversity Requirement" courses required of undergraduate students. Expressed a need for these courses to be tracked and audited to assess their continued relevance, especially those that are not now taught by the original instructor. A recommendation is anticipated.

* Appointed Dorothy Holland to serve as the committee's liaison to the committee on minority postdoctoral candidates, and to serve as an informal liaison on diversity to the Conference of Chairs, College of Arts and Sciences, regarding diversity issues.

* Expressed the need for the Chancellor or his designate to provide oversight of diversity issues. The objectives are to collect, summarize and disseminate information on diversity issues and programs including diversity training, recruitment, and monitoring of the diversity climate on campus. This information on current university diversity efforts and progress with respect to faculty, students, and staff should be made available upon request to the Chancellor and other relevant administrators and committees, and to university units and individuals undertaking new diversity efforts. A recommendation is anticipated.

* Invited Nadine O'Malley to the committee's April meeting to update the committee on the status of "domestic partners" issues and concerns.

* Invited Lynda Dykstra (Dean, Graduate School) to attend April meeting to speak to the committee about the University's ongoing recruitment efforts for minority graduate students.

* Initiated an ongoing discussion on the possibility/feasibility of a University "Diversity Clearinghouse."

* Discussed plans to submit report and recommendations to the Chancellor after the committee's April meeting.