**Multicultural Advisory Committee**

**GUC Events Conference Room**

**March 3, 2010**

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. Members present were Dr. Jana Beaver, Dr. Alyce Brown, Dr. Joy Brown, Dr. Ernestine Davis, Dr. Ann Dillon, Ms. Lauren Givens, Dr. Francis Koti, Ms. Toysan Reed, and Mr. Antonio Williams. Dr. Lelon Davidson and Ms. Joan Williams from ODIE were also in attendance. Visitors were Mr. Kevin Jacques and Ms. Allison Rae.

The minutes from February’s meeting were approved with no changes.

Ms. Reed distributed and read a February 23rd e-mail response from Dr. Terry Richardson concerning our submitted changes for the committee structure and charge in the Shared Governance document for the Multicultural Advisory Committee section. Ms. Reed also shared an e-mail response from Dr. Richardson about some of the questions we had in the February meeting. As for the question about the need to update the MAC Committee Description created in 1996, Dr. Richardson responded that we should update it. Dr. Davis volunteered to update the description and will e-mail the document to the committee soon for editing.

Dr. Richardson’s e-mail response also stated that we should take our recommendation for creating a task force about disabilities issues directly to our reporting VP, Dr. Thornell. Dr. Dillon shared her expertise and knowledge about the previous committee she served on concerning disabilities on campus. She will determine the status of this committee and report back to Ms. Reed. Ms. Reed will set up a meeting with Dr. Thornell to discuss our proposal if no committee still exists. Out of this discussion, Dr. Koti volunteered to update the campus accessibility map over the summer if this is not already being updated. Dr. Dillon will check into this issue and see whose responsibility it is to keep the map current for disabled people on campus to view. Mr. Jacques provided insight into how the residence halls handle accessibility and accommodations for disabled students living on campus.

We decided to postpone the continuation of last month’s grant discussion since Dr. Foster could not be at today’s meeting.

Next was our discussion of the results and interpretations of the 2008 Campus Climate Survey Report, specifically the diversity components. We received copies of the report at last month’s meeting and were to read and have thoughts for this meeting. We talked about the open-ended comments section and specific data from certain questions. Our main concern, based on the survey results and report, is that education about diversity is needed for the campus community. First, we think UNA’s definition of diversity (as shown in the Strategic Plan), needs to be clarified and promoted. Next, we feel that faculty and staff would benefit from sensitivity and awareness training as it relates to diversity. Dr. Dillon and Mr. Jacques shared ways they’ve participated or conducted this type of training in the past with good results. Another issue we had was the wording of some of the diversity questions in this survey. We would like the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, & Assessment to consider tweaking some of the diversity questions for the next iteration of this survey without adding length to the survey. One example provided was rewording a question to consider sexual orientation, which was missing in the 2008 survey. We decided to continue the committee’s discussion on recommendations we have from this report at next month’s meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.