

President's Commission on the Status of Minorities

Steering Committee

MINUTES from the 10/16/2006 Meeting

Attendees: Ann Carr, Carson Cook, Bill Chapman, Susan Diehl, Brenda Edgerton-Webster, Cliff Hampton, Pearson Liddell Jr. (Chair), and Tommy Stevenson.

Absent: Elliott Flaggs and Shahryar M. Naqvi

The Diversity Awards application and criteria documents were distributed. After a brief discussion and minor revision (to limit the number of support letters to 3), the documents were approved by the committee by an 8-0 vote. Committee members can make additional comments about the documents through the end of the day (10/16/2006). The Awards procedure will be re-evaluated after the completion of the 2006-2007 Awards process. Carson Cook and Pearson Liddell will meet with Mr. McGrevey to get the Diversity Awards approved, institutionalized and financed. Upon its approval, an Awards selection committee will need to be chosen at the next Commission meeting to review the applications and choose the winners.

The African-American Studies Program was discussed. This is a program Dr. Foglesong wants created. There is some concern that the program will not accomplish his goal of attracting more minorities to MSU. Brenda serves on the Program Advisory Committee and stated that they had met and discussed whether the program should be a minor in History or an interdisciplinary certificate. There has been some concern among African-American faculty concerning input into this committee. Pearson and Carson will draft a letter to Dr. Phil Oldham, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Chair of the Program Advisory Committee, asking him to communicate with the Commission concerning the progress on this Program.

Other Items the Committee Needs to Address:

- Long Term Plan for Commission
- Discussion of the Inside Higher Education Article concerning VP position for Diversity.
- Establishment of a core course on Diversity and Cultural Differences required for all students.
- Need to stay focused on giving President Foglesong some suggestions concerning Diversity needs at MSU. Carson, Tommy, Cliff and Al will meet to review the list of suggestions from last year and bring additional ones to the table.