

Minority Affairs Committee Minutes. November 4, 2011

Present: Kathryn Healy, Kristin Schwain, Lakeisha Williams, Mark Milanick, Todd Hout

The committee discussed Homecoming and the discussion sponsored by Multicultural Issues Committee of which Lakeisha is chair. We will encourage the Alumni Association to have a central website for all homecoming activities and to stress the importance of having more activities clearly open to non-Greeks as well as sponsored by non-Greek organizations. Mark will draft a letter expressing our opinions with a follow up letter in early June and we will invite Todd McCubbin to a meeting this spring. The committee also discussed the fact that many in the LGBT community avoided some homecoming activities because of their concerns about violence. The committee will explore the possibility of moving some events to the middle of campus would provide for a safer environment for the near term as well as activities that can help reduce violence against LGBT community.

The committee discussed having a panel discussion, tentatively titled, Beauty Culture in Multicultural Communities. We will aim for a discussion in early March. A subcommittee of Kristin, Lakeisha, Mark with Treva Lindsey from Women & Gender Studies will organize the discussion.

We will also try to sponsor a panel discussion in late January or early February about race and medicine, perhaps to be titled Profiling for Prescriptions that will examine several issues: the advantages and disadvantages of approving drugs for particular racial and ethnic groups, the issue of how some clinicians still ask questions based upon stereotypes of race, gender, and sexual orientation and how that makes the patient feel, the advantages and disadvantages of public health policies based on racial groups as well as the conflict that many life scientist don't feel there is a scientific justification for dividing people by race but the sociological fact that many aspects of our culture involve racial classifications.

The committee also discussed the idea of sponsoring a discussion on the boxes and labels people use to self-identify and when relating to others. We explored the idea of doing a survey at the beginning of the gathering and having various moderators.

Mark will contact the curator of the Student Union Display space and see if MAC would be allowed to oversee one of the spaces where we could have rotating exhibits examining minority issues, for example, a discussion of the racism and sexism in the Beetle Bailey cartoons and the anti-homosexual attitudes of Thomas Brady that reflect common attitudes of their time, but which are viewed quite differently now.

Mark will work Kathy about the websites discussed at the previous meeting, in particular, one to display courses that meet last year's Faculty Council's definition of Diversity Intensive.