

January 27, 2005

Dear Colleagues: Here is a summary of our January 27th meeting, based on our recollection. Please feel free to add (and/or correct).

It was pointed that the MAC ad came out in the Thursday, January 27 issue of the Mizzou Weekly, and would also come out in the January 28th issue of the Maneater.

Linda Garth and her staff from the Office of Academic Retention Services (ARS) gave us a great deal of information about some of the services that are offered to minority students on campus. First, she talked a bit about the office of Multicultural Affairs currently headed by Pablo Mendoza (that reports to Student Affairs). Various offices are regrouped under Multicultural Affairs, such as the Gay and Lesbian Center, The Women Center, the Asian American Association, the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), and the Black Culture Center. Additionally, there are on campus a multicultural sorority, and a Hispanic fraternity, both recently established.

Linda and her staff gave us a history of her office, Academic Retention Services, established in 1994 to ensure that minority students accepted to MU do not fall through the cracks, and are mentored throughout their academic careers. In many ways, her office serves as a liaison with the academic colleges/departments in which these students are enrolled. Academic Retention offers a variety of services to minority students: workshops, programs and activities, such as leadership training, peer mentoring, dialogues with minority students and faculty, diversity training, a system of co-enrollment with other minority peers, among others. That office is also involved in minority student recruitment, and has a summer transition program that helps minority students at risk make a successful transition from high school to college. It also oversees the MAP Scholars Program, in which talented minority students who receive a scholarship participate. It also sponsors at the beginning of the academic year, a social activity called Fallfest where students meet other students from diverse ethnic backgrounds and can begin networking on campus. Various brochures are also published by the Office of Academic Retention, such as The Compass: Your Guide for Staying on Track.

Following Linda Garth and her staff informative presentation, Deputy Chancellor Michael Middleton spoke about his definition of the term minority, which for him is rather inclusive. He agreed with a definition offered by a member of the committee that a minority person/group is one who has suffered a prolonged experience of marginalization, exclusion, and oppression. This definition could encompass Blacks; some Hispanic groups, such as Mexicans and Puerto-Ricans; Native Americans; Asian Americans; some international groups, Gays and Lesbians; people with disabilities, and also religious groups that are victims of marginalization. Deputy Chancellor Middleton wants MU to be a very receptive and tolerant place to all who choose to attend our university. He leaves it up to the committee to decide which issues it wants to prioritize and to which it wants to give particular attention. He wants the committee to listen to the concerns of the various minority groups and make recommendations accordingly.

Some discussion followed as to existence of prior records of MAC business and their accessibility to current committee members. An announcement was made about the Martin

Luther King events taking place all day Saturday the 29th. It was also suggested that MAC members participate in this, and other events involving minority students on campus.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 17 at 4:00 in 123 Jesse Hall.

As soon as we confirm with invited people, we will send out an agenda.

Thanks.

Amber and Flore