

Minority Affairs Committee Annual Report
Academic Year 2014-2015

Membership: Denice Adkins, Seonghee Cho, Krystal Drake, Michael García, Dennis Kelley, Jeimmie Nevalga, Cheri Ghan, Maggie Reyland, Vikki Shahan, Sheena Waggoner, Tahji Dixon, Alex Ndikum, Binh Ngo, Kenneth Bryant

Meetings: A new chair was appointed in March 2015. Prior to this, the committee did not meet. After the appointment, the Minority Affairs Committee has met in person 2 times, and we have communicated twice by email regarding relevant topics. The meetings occurred on the following days: April 10 and May 1.

Below is a summary of the individual items and, if available, their resolution.

April 10 2015:

Item 1: García introduced the idea that in Biology a significant percentage of minority undergraduates cannot attend Summer Welcome.

Resolution: A lengthy discussion occurred about policies and procedures that are in place at the College to assist students that cannot attend the summer program. Students are allowed to enroll by phone appointment if they meet certain hardships that prevent them from attending in person. While all students do not have to physically attend Summer Welcome to register for classes, all students must pay the registration fee. This may pose a hardship for some minority students since freshmen have not received financial aid yet to assist with this expense. It was decided that this is an issue that should be dealt with primarily by Biology.

Item 2: García introduced the idea of writing a mission statement to help guide the committee. This will help shape the committee's direction in meeting the charge set forth by the University.

Resolution: At this point, work on the document was initiated, but it was agreed by all to meet regularly until the document was completed.

May 1 2015:

Item 1: The committee further worked on the mission statement. A draft was near completion, but needs to be sent out to the committee for approval.

Resolution: García will get this along with minutes to the committee as soon as possible.