



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

FACULTY SENATE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage Alaska 99508

Drs Robert Boeckmann & Steven Aufrecht, Co-chairs.

DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 2006
TO: Dr. Greg Protasel, Faculty Senate President
FROM: Rob Crosman, Secretary
SUBJECT: Committee Status Report.

The fifth regular meeting for 2005-06 was held on January 20, 2006 in RH 207a from 3:00 to 4:15 P.M.

Present were Profs. Steven Aufrecht, Robert Boeckmann (Chair), Ping-Tung Chang, Robert Crosman (secretary), Herminia Din, Patricia Fagan, Rudy Fernandez, David Fitzgerald, Dennis Howard; Natasa Masanovic, Nyree McDonald, Sudarsan Rangarajan; Russell Presley.

The agenda was accepted and minutes of December's meeting were approved. Dr. Boeckmann circulated a preliminary list of sub-committee members and goals, which were added to in committee discussion. The results were as follows:

Prof. Crosman reported that at the last meeting of the Faculty Senate, our motion to have the Senate express a concern for the loss of government grant funding for the ANPsych program in a letter to Chancellor Maimon, was tabled until the next meeting. Dr. Crosman requested that Dr. Boeckmann or some other faculty member involved with ANPsych attend the February meeting to answer questions raised at the last meeting concerning the value of the program, and the extent of funding loss.

Discussion followed as to the cost and value of the ANPsych program. **Dr. Boeckmann** reported that prior to its arrival 5 years ago, no Alaska Native to his knowledge had received a Masters degree in Psychology. Now there are 15 – 20 Natives who are undergraduate majors, one M.A. was granted last semester to a Native, and three more are expected to earn the degree in May '06.

Funding of \$250K per annum pays for a ½ -time faculty administrator of the program, plus tuition and books for a number of Native students.

Dr. McDonald urged that a substantive argument be made for the program's effectiveness and presented to the Faculty Senate in written form.

A motion was made and subsequently withdrawn to write and send a letter to Chancellor Maimon from this committee, if the Faculty Senate fails to approve sending one of its own. It was felt that such a move was premature, and would seem to go over the head of the whole organization of which we are a subordinate part.

The departure of Director of Diversity Chairita Franklin to take up a post at Doyon Corp. was discussed, and **Drs. Crosman and Chang** reported that the Diversity Action Council (DAC) was deliberating whether to continue to request a visit from Dr. Patricia Aradondo, of Arizona State Univ., an expert advisor on diversity issues for this Spring (probably in April). The issue is whether to hold off until a replacement for

Director Franklin can be found, or whether to seize this occasion to rethink the direction of Diversity at UAA, with the help of Dr. Aradondo, and the participation of Chancellor Maimon and Vice-Chancellor Ejigu. Dr. Aradondo's previous visit four years ago was the impetus for many positive changes on this campus, and the DAC hopes for a similar positive result from a return visit. The DAC planned a meeting to further deliberate the timing and purpose of Dr. Aradondo's visit on **Friday, January 27th from 9 – 11 AM in ADM 204** (Chancellor's Conference Room).

The question was raised as to who would be the new contact person with Dr. Aradondo, now that Director Franklin was leaving.

Funding issues with regard to Dr. Aradondo's visit were discussed. Though it will be expensive (\$8,000 last time) funds are available in the DAC's budget, and even in a narrow economic sense her visit promises to benefit Diversity programs by much more than that amount.

Sub-committee reports:

#1 (diversity training for new and returning faculty): No report – subcommittee did not meet over Christmas break.

#2 (speakers): Dr. Chang is looking into Depak Chopra; Dr. Licka is looking into bell hooks.

#3 (hiring and retention of faculty of color): **Prof. Howard** reported the sad case of a prolific young faculty member whose requests for a lightening of a heavy teaching load had fallen on deaf ears. The faculty member's only solution had been to find a position elsewhere with a more reasonable schedule of classes. Loss of this faculty member threatens to leave his college below minimum standards for accreditation in the area of published research. This member had also earlier reported lack of adequate support from the UAA administration with regard to renewing his visa.

#4 (sensitivity questions on student evaluations) – No report.

- **Next meeting:** Next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, February 17th, 2006, 3:00 - 4:30P.M. Consortium Library 302.
- **Website:** See the Website for the latest News Flash and the Diversity Scholarship Notices - <http://hosting.uaa.alaska.edu/fsdc/diversity.html>
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ACTION ITEMS: Remove from table and vote on the following MOTION FOR FACULTY SENATE:

The UAA Faculty Senate views with concern the loss of government grant funding for the ANPsych program. We direct President Protasel, in consultation with Prof. Boeckmann of the Psychology Dept. to write a letter asking Chancellor Maimon and her administrators to find alternative sources of funding for this valuable and successful program.