



UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

FACULTY SENATE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage Alaska 99508
 Drs Jeanne Eder and Natasa Masanovic, Co-chairs.

FACULTY SENATE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2008

Minutes for November 21, 2008: (GHH 103: 3:00 - 4:30)					
	Carlos Alsua-School of Management	X	Herminia Din	X	Songho Ha
	Beverly Barker - Chemistry	X	Jeanne Eder		Sean Licka
	Robert Boeckmann	X	Wayne Edwards	X	Natasa Masanovic
	Yong Cao	X	Patricia Fagan	X	Sudarsan Rangarajan
X	Ping-Tung Chang		Dave Fitzgerald		Sam Thiru
X	Robert Crosman	X	Nancy Furlow	X	Dennis Howard
Consultants and Representatives					
	Marva Watson, Interim Director, Campus Diversity & Compliance Office - present				Russell Pressley, Academic Advising Coordinator (CHSW) - present
	Provost Driscoll (consulting only)				

AGENDA

Approval of 10/17/08 Minutes: approved

OLD BUSINESS:

* Indigenous Concerns Committee “membership” – 50% indigenous members; students will be members. We need to work on the wording of the Senate constitution and by-laws amendment to create this committee or sub-committee. Senate might not support it as a separate committee. Discussion of these alternatives ensued. Which will result in more faculty support for indigenous issues? Need for support of classes taught on diversity subjects or by “minority” faculty.

How do we support diversity/minority courses in the face of budget cuts and retrenchment?

It was decided by vote to support the sub-committee route to amendment of the Faculty Senate constitution and by-laws.

* HR Procedures for International Faculty members

Testimony required from individual faculty as to unsatisfactory treatment from HR in matters of visa renewal, green card, etc. Testimony would be signed by complaining faculty, but names would not be passed along to HR.

This is now to be handled by the Director of International Affairs, Ted Kassier. Would the aggrieved be better off going through their union? Perhaps they would be better served by getting legal representation. The question is raised of whether this committee should write a letter to Dr. Kassier, copied to the Provost and the Chancellor, asking for the processes of helping international faculty to be set down, and adequate, trained HR personnel be hired to follow them. Suggestion is made that Dr. Kassier come to this committee to discuss the problem. Chair agrees to invite him to our next meeting, in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

Civil Rights Day Celebration – would we provide support in the form of a faculty presentation or presentations? Robert Boeckmann offers a report on his research on rural Alaskans. Consult Christine Gheen in UAA Bookstore. Nancy Furlow has a proposal on “Growing Up Native in Alaska”. Robert Crosman could offer a talk on Toni Morrison or Alice Walker.

*Joint Meeting with DAC, January 30, 2009 – time and place tba. Lunch meeting a likelihood.