**Multicultural Advisory Committee**

**GUC Events Conference Room**

**April 7, 2010**

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. Members present were Dr. Jana Beaver, Dr. Ann Dillon, Dr. Mark Foster, Ms. Lauren Givens, and Dr. Ian Loeppky. Dr. Lelon Davidson from ODIE was also in attendance.

There were not enough members present for a quorum, but the committee decided to open the meeting to discuss the agenda items that did not require a vote.

The minutes from March’s meeting were approved with one change.

Dr. Dillon updated the committee on the status of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA )Task Force (started in 2005) since she is a member. She provided a copy of this Task Force’s report to the Faculty Senate from September 2008. It noted the faculty/staff members of the task force and mentioned implementation of policies and procedures. The report also listed a pool of people from which five would be chosen as needed to meet and review student documentation and determine appropriate accommodations for students per ADA. Dr. Dillon learned that the task force is ending, but the panel process for reviewing accommodations will continue. This group thought that our committee’s idea of creating a task force to specifically handle disability issues was a good idea. Dr. Dillon plans to invite Mary Bowers, the specialist for UNA Disability Support Services, to our May meeting to discuss plans for moving forward with this recommendation to the VPAA. Also, Dr. Dillon found out that Ms. Bowers’ office is responsible for the campus accessibility map discussed at last month’s meeting, and she will discuss the needed updating with their office staff.

Next, we continued last month’s discussion of the results and interpretations of the 2008 Campus Climate Survey Report, specifically the diversity components. We decided that the best way for this committee to make recommendations to the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment for the next iteration of this survey was for committee members to rewrite several diversity related survey questions and bring them to the May meeting. Then, we will collaborate and merge these thoughts into survey questions that hopefully encompass more diverse areas than the existing survey to provide us with better results the next time. Then, we will take these new questions to the Office of Institutional Research for consideration.

The survey also sparked conversation about the lack of diversity shown in Greek Life on our campus, and essentially many other campuses across the nation. We were curious if the Greek advisors ever discuss such issues in their meetings. Ms. Givens mentioned Mr. De Anté Smith, the new Assistant Director of Student Engagement for Greek Affairs, and said she would invite him to our May meeting. This also led to discussion about SOAR and if there were ways to incorporate diversity related workshops into campus orientation. Ms. Givens will invite Ms. Tammy Jacques, Director of Student Engagement and the person in charge of SOAR, to our May meeting. The mention of diversity workshops prompted Dr. Davidson to share that UNA administration is working on getting an accomplished and dynamic young African-American gentleman to speak for 2011 Commencement. If this works out, there are hopes to hire this speaker to conduct possible diversity training with administration and faculty the day before commencement. We discussed the impact of getting this guy or someone else like him to speak to all the freshmen and other UNA students at a future Fall Convocation. We need to find ways to educate about diversity to large groups and both of these events would be a great start.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.