

August 27, 2003

Dean Robert F. Olin
College of Arts and Sciences
Box 870268

Dear Dean Olin:

This annual report for the College of Arts and Sciences' Diversity Committee highlights some of the activities the committee was involved in for the academic year 2002-2003. As you can see, the committee is becoming more comfortable with its mission and goals. The committee believes the promotion of the positive diversity activities within the College of Arts and Sciences is becoming a real presence on campus. For this reason, the goals for next year are even more ambitious than the year before.

2002-2003 Accomplishments

- A sub-committee was formed from members of the committee who were willing to discuss the importance of diversity at campus student organization meetings. In exchange for the opportunity to present, campus organizations will be able to be listed on the college diversity website as having participated in this program. In an attempt to promote this endeavor, the Committee Chair, Dr. Jimmy Williams, sent a letter to all student organizations on campus explaining the effort. Many have already scheduled committee members to visit during the academic year 2003-2004.
- In an effort to continue to promote the positive presence of diversity within the college, the committee voted to extend an invitation to all faculty to use the diversity logo on individual as well as class related correspondence, including individual course syllabi.
- As part of an on-going effort to develop promotional materials for the committee, the Art Department representative to the committee began a poster contest. The contest specifically encourages students to submit ideas. The committee hopes to be ready for poster production by spring, 2003.
- The committee was able to complete listing all courses in the College of Arts and Sciences that have significant diversity-related content.

- The committee was able, through support from the A&S Dean's Office, to design and purchase t-shirts for distribution during the Open Door event in June, 2003. The shirts have also been distributed at recruiting events for prospective students.
- As a part of the goal to reach out across campus, the committee invited Mr. Samory Pruitt to speak to the committee about his recommendations for outreach.
- This year, the Diversity Committee had the pleasure of endorsing and sponsoring an unprecedented number of activities. In September, 2002, as part of the Department of Religious Studies' Religion in Culture lecture series, Dr. Eddie Glaude of Princeton University spoke on "In Search of a Black Public: The Changing Place of African American Religion During the Interwar Period." Peter Kirsanow, a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, was sponsored in October, 2002 by the Department of History. In November 2002, the Department of History also sponsored a presentation by Autherine Lucy Foster, the first black student at The University of Alabama. Also in November, 2002, the Department of English presented its 26th Alabama Symposium entitled "The English Language and Black Identity: Between Pan-Africanism and Afrocentricity." The symposium was inaugurated with a keynote address by distinguished African-American sociolinguist, playwright, and poet Dr. Alamin Mazrui. In February, 2003, Robert Woodson was sponsored for a colloquium by the Department of History. Dr. Woodson is a recent receiver of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship. In March, 2003, the Department of History sponsored its second annual Race and Place Conference. In addition, in March, 2003, the Department of Women's Studies sponsored Ms. Joyce Ann Brown to present on her book "Justice Denied".
- In conjunction with the goals of the College Diversity Committee, New College established and coordinated a Race, Gender, and Pedagogy interest group. This group meets monthly to discuss issues related to teaching and how to make every learning environment position for all students.
- A proposal was submitted by the Committee to the Office of Academic Affairs to start a Diversity Speaker's Series within the University. The funding for this proposal was not available at this time, but the committee has decided to continue pursuit of this idea.
- The committee replaced four members for the next academic year.
- In light of Dr. Jimmy Williams' new role as Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, Dr. Ed Tang was asked to serve as chair of the Diversity Committee. Dr. Tang accepted.

Immediate Goals

- Continue to support and endorse cultural, artistic, and scholarly activities of people of color sponsored by departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Explore external funding for several initiatives the Committee would like to undertake.
- Continue website development.
- Continue to develop the concept of a brochure about the College of Arts and Sciences while highlighting the accomplishments of faculty of color.
- Work with A&S Student Services to develop a mail-out to school counselors.
- Explore how A&S can foster more relationships with Historically Black College and Universities.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown this committee and express our enthusiasm for the progress we anticipate being able to continue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jimmy Williams
Chair, Diversity Committee, 2001-2003
Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs
College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Carmen Taylor
Associate Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

cc: Dr. Judy Bonner