

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DIVERSITY AND MULTICUTURALISM COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 19, 2010

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Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Present: Trustees Duane Benson, Chair; Clarence Hightower, Vice Chair; Christopher Frederickson, Christine Sundin; Terri Thomas

Diversity and Multiculturalism Committee Members Absent: Tom Renier,

Other Board Members Present: Trustees Cheryl Dickson, David Paska, Christine Rice, Scott This, James Van Houten

Leadership Council Members Present: Dr. Whitney Harris, Executive Director; President Phil Davis

recruitment program that includes the brochures and web site in multiple languages and also the bus ads. The National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education has invited Whitney Harris and Linda Kohl to present on this program as a webinar on January 29, 2010, as an example of cooperative ventures between public relations and diversity.

- x As mentioned in an earlier meeting, Raúl Ramos, Senior Access and Opportunity Specialist, is currently at an event in Washington, D.C., where he is a featured panelist.

### 3. Final Report of Male Access and Success at Minnesota State College and Universities Study Group

About eighteen months ago, the Diversity and Multiculturalism division established a study group to consider factors that might increase access and success for males in Minnesota. The study group has completed a report that will be posted on the division web page. There has been a nationwide decrease in males accessing higher education. This year however, the increase of males in the Minnesota State system has been higher than females in all demographic groups except for American Indians. Dr. Harris said he thought the G-Bill and unemployment are factors that may have contributed to this change. He also hopes that current access, opportunity and success programs are a factor in this change.

Whitney Harris offered the following proposals:

1. Provide assistance with financial issues and financial literacy. There appears to be a gap for males in their basic financial knowledge and their ability to connect with financial aid. Sometimes a basic lack of knowledge prevents the current programs from being of use.
2. Develop or modify programs in conjunction with secondary schools. In particular, he recommends programs that will increase male involvement in the consideration of college beginning around the ninth grade. One way is to meet males where they are, possibly in athletics.
3. Provide professional development to teachers. Teachers in middle and high schools could use more professional development around male discipline issues in order to more effectively address these issues.
- 4.

coordination between programs and assist in the evaluation of the activities as a way to further identify the most promising practices.

Trustee Hightower suggested that there be two or three directives for action. He sees that the work of the committee as broadening the base of students in the system institutions, not just attracting those who are already predisposed toward college.

Dr. Harris said the system has to find ways to address the lack of interest and preparation in higher education.

#### 4. American Indian Initiative Update

This issue was not addressed at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gale Rohde