Chancellor’s Cultural Diversity Council  
October 18, 2013 2:30P.M. to 4:00 PM  
Woods Hall - Room 101

Members present: Bob Bliss, Deborah Burris, Maria Teresa Balogh, Lisa Busalacki, Alice Canavan, Larry Davis, Lori Flanagan, Kuei-Hsiang Hsueh, Raleigh Muns, Meg Naes, Charlotte Petty, Sharon Pruitt, Tony Rosas, Yan Tian, Benjamin Torbert, and Chancellor Thomas George

Summary of Minutes

I) Welcome

Bob Bliss welcomed all the new members and expressed his gratitude for their membership. Chancellor Thomas George extended his welcome to the council as well. He shared a brief history of the council and the general format of the meetings. He emphasized his interest in the strategic diversity planning that the council is doing. Chancellor George thanked the members for their commitment to the council.

Deborah welcomed all members and thanked them for their presence. She emphasized the importance of each member’s opinion and perspective. Deborah summarized last year’s accomplishments. She shared brief highlights about last year’s council activities: informative presentations, development and results of the 2011 Climate Study, the student enrollment policy, and the Jubilee Oral History Project spearheaded by Raleigh Muns.

II) Diversity in Business Speaker

Bob Bliss introduced Charles Hoffman, the new dean of the business school. Charles gave a talk about diversity in the business world. Charles spoke about the need for more diversity in higher level positions in the business sector.

III) HEED Award

Deborah Burris announced UMSL as a recipient of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. She explained that the Office of Equal Opportunity, with the input of herself and Lisa Busalacki, applied for the award and won. Deborah shared that UMSL was the only university in Missouri to receive the award. She thanked all members for their hard work towards diversity.

IV) Diversity Plan

Lisa Busalacki shared recent research on diversity strategies in higher education institutions from Damon Williams. Deborah Burris asked Charlotte Petty and Raleigh Muns to introduce the rough draft of the Diversity Plan to the rest of the council. Raleigh started the conversation and stated the document is an advanced draft. Deborah emphasized the results of the climate study generated the three areas of concern: inclusiveness, diversity advocacy, and harassment prevention. Raleigh said these themes were used at the retreat to start the Diversity Plan. Deborah encouraged the committee to critically assess the plan. She stated the plan will serve as a set point to look back on, check the progress of the UMSL community and serve as an action plan in terms of where the council goes next. She announced the next step will be to go over the plan in detail at the November meeting.