

University Senate's Diversity Committee 2010-11 Report

2010-2011 Committee Members Christina Beall, Nina Berman, José O. Díaz, (Chair), Michael Forrest, Cyndi Freeman, David Harrison, Hazel Morrow-Jones, Reyahd Kazmi, Jen Lucas, Megan Peterseim (Vice-Chair), Maurice Stevens, Valerie Lee, Susan Olesik, Patricia Stuhr, Laura Younger, Samantha Wahome, Yolanda Zepeda, Christopher Zoller.

This is the Senate's Diversity Committee Report for the Academic Year 2010-2011.

During the academic year 2010-2011 the Senate's Diversity Committee convened on a monthly basis.

The committee's rich agenda, the issues it tackled, and the diversity of its guest speakers are a mere reflection of enormity and complexity of the issues facing the University community.

During the course of 2010-2011 year the committee underwent a review of its activities. Working from a white paper authored by the committee's chair, the committee reviewed its own internal mechanisms and sought, among other things, ways to improve the effectiveness and quality of the information gathered by Annual Diversity Report. The changes to the frequency and composition of the Annual Diversity report are a result of long discussions that included the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Senate's Steering Committee, and the Senate's Diversity Committee. The process of reviewing the Annual Diversity Report is an ongoing process.

Last December, the Committee invited Kim Shumate from the University's Legal Affairs Office to discuss the legal implication for diversity and inclusion of the Ricci vs. De Stafano case.

The Committee took an active role in learning about the Students Organizations' Non-Discriminatory policy. For this purpose, it engaged leaders of the University Interfaith Alliance as well as our Vice-President for Student Life Dr. J. Adams-Gaston. Currently, the Committee continues to study Dr. Adams-Gaston's decision and soon will comment on it publicly.

In light of the short-lived controversy regarding The Center for Equal Opportunity Report, the Diversity Committee asked Dolan Evanovich, Vice President for Enrollment to educate the committee on issues of diversity and enrollment at The Ohio State University. The committee is fully satisfied that The Ohio State University is following the spirit as well as letter of the law.

Last March, Jack Rall, the University's Ombudsmen, spoke with the Senate's Diversity Committee on the purpose and function of his office.

Finally, and following long-standing tradition, the Committee oversaw the applications and selection process for the Distinguished Diversity Enhancement Awards (DDEA). This year two individuals will receive the DDEA.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. José O. Díaz
Associate Professor
Chair, Senate's Diversity Committee