

REPORT TO ACADEMIC SENATE

To: Academic Senate

From: Dr. Gina Golden Tangalakis, Committee Chair

Re: Activities of the Campus Climate Committee 2009-2010 academic year

Meetings: The Campus Climate Committee was elected and first meeting occurred February 2010. The Committee was initially scheduled to meet monthly but changed the meetings to bimonthly beginning March 2010. Minutes were recorded at each meeting and are included in the Campus Climate Committee Handbook.

Campus Climate Committee Members:

Thomas Washington, Associate Professor, Social Work

Keith Collins, Professor, History

Bitia Ghafoori, Associate Professor, Advanced Studies in Education & Counseling

Kimberly Machan, Lecturer, Kinesiology

Gina Golden Tangalakis, Lecturer, Psychology

Debra Gleason, Coordinator, Educational Equity Services

Magdalena Munoz, Administrative Coordinator, Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

Tara Hardee, Assistant Director, Student Relations, Enrollment Services

Kristin McRae, Student Representative, Associated Students, Inc.

Jessica Pugh, Students Representative, Associated Students, Inc.

Jane Duong, Student Representative, Associated Students, Inc.

Mary Ann Takemoto, Associate Vice President, Student Services

Ami Rzasa, Corporal, University Police

Julie Rivera, Lecturer, Chicano & Latino Studies, CLA

Perrin Reid, Director, Equity & Diversity

Betsy Decyk, Ombud, University Ombuds

James Saucedo, Director, Multicultural Center

Activities

The mission of the Campus Climate Committee (CCC) is to promote mutual acceptance and respect and to celebrate diversity in all its forms. The charge of the CCC includes monitoring the campus climate and making recommendations to improve the campus climate. Other responsibilities include encouraging educational programs that increase the understanding of equity and diversity issues. Members of the committee were selected to represent the diversity of the campus community.

Discussions of the committee focused around the primary issue of developing a student satisfaction survey and the pertinent issues to be addressed therein.

Regarding the charge and responsibilities of the committee, a number of incidence and issues arose during the 2009-2010 academic year that had an impact on the CCE. The first issue was the establishment of committee member elections and the origination of meetings beginning late in the academic year, precluding a full term of work. The committee requested earlier elections so that work can begin for the committee in September rather than February. Praveen Soni, Chair of the Academic Senate was contacted and advised the Committee Chair that elections would be held early to enable committee work to begin in the Fall.

In February 2010 the Committee elected Gina Golden Tangalakis as committee chair. The Committee also voted to meet twice monthly in order to attempt to make progress with the remaining time. The Committee reviewed several student surveys used by other Colleges and Universities. Subtopics for survey questions were identified and subcommittees established to begin to review and write potential survey questions. Subtopics included: University bullying, Veterans, Barriers to Graduation, Family Issues, Work Life, Student Financial Aid Opportunities, Student Awareness of Health Resources, Advising, University Police and Campus Safety, Impact of Furloughs, Student Organizations and Pressure within Organizations, Drugs on Campus, Date Rape, Accessibility for Disabled Students.

Each committee member was to begin to develop questions in their areas of interest for discussion and later dissemination. Susan Platt was invited to attend the April 12th meeting in order to help educate the committee and inform of various survey methods used on campus as well as prior student surveys. She did attend the meeting and provided information to the committee of historical methodologies. Frequently the campus has done surveys to all students via the internet. The Committee Chair, Gina Golden Tangalakis, was contacted by CSUN faculty, Sun-Mee Kang, is attempting to work on a similar University Student Survey. Unfortunately, there was often too few members in attendance in order to carry out voting on business-related issues.

Several campus safety issues arose during the Spring semester. Campus safety was a predominant issue following the attack of a transgendered student on campus. Additionally, the campus computer system was hacked by a hate group and the campus' Take Back the Night Event was used a forum for many community activist groups to converge to address the student attack.

Recommendations:

- 1) The committee could continue to work on the development of survey questions with a goal of completion and dissemination in the 2010-2011 academic year;
- 2) Explore and discuss ways to address factors that are preventing regular attendance at committee meetings;
- 3) Continue to address needs of returning Veterans;
- 4) Continue to address Campus violence and bullying;
- 5) Continue to address homelessness
- 6) Work with Academic Senate to establish website with resources as a continuation from previous years work.
- 7) Establish Guest Speakers program to assist with above topics