


MEMORANDUM

July 28, 1993

TO: Gary Russi
Vice President for Academic Affairs for the Senate
Steering Committee

FROM: Senate Committee on Human Relations 

SUBJECT: Committee Annual Report 1992/93

The members of the Committee on Human Relations for 1992/93 were: Sherman Folland, Geri Graham, Frances Jackson, Estela Moreno-Mazzoli, Brian Murphy, Richard Pipan, Eleanor Reynolds, Joseph Wydeven (student), Mohamed Zohdy and Ann Pogany, chair. Manuel Pierson was appointed ex-officio in the winter semester. The major work of the committee for this past year centered on the question of the establishment of a minority affairs office at Oakland University.

On September 24, 1992 the Committee received a memo from Ron Horwitz asking for advice on the establishment of such an office at Oakland University. Shortly thereafter we were informed that the decision had been made to create the office and that Manuel Pierson had been assigned the special project of gathering information and making recommendations on the configuration of it. He was then appointed an ex-officio member of the Committee. In order to get University input we sponsored an open hearing on Martin Luther King Day and invited Earl Nelson from the Minority Equity Office in Lansing. Kevin Early was kind enough to moderate that discussion, which was well attended, vocal yet civilized.

On April 1, 1993 shortly after receiving the preliminary draft of Manuel's report, the Committee sent a memo to Sandra Packard indicating our support for the proposal and making a number of recommendations. (See attached). One of those recommendation, if adopted, would have significant impact on the role and charge of the Committee.

We contributed to the African American Celebration Month by sponsoring a film festival followed by a panel discussion. Two films were shown in the Oakland Center at noon and in the evening. The panel discussion, ably coordinated by Brian Murphy, discussed these films, along with "Malcolm X". This activity was funded by the African American Celebration Month and Kresge Library. Credit for the idea goes to Sherman Folland. Eleanor Reynolds, who works with students regularly, tells me that the panel discussion got "rave review" from those in attendance.

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The Committee also submitted a request for the funding of a competitive summer fellowship to study minority issues at Oakland University which was not funded. The Committee still supports that proposal and believes that valuable information can be gained on the recruitment and retention of minority students at Oakland University, information that the new Office of Minority Equity could use as a basis from which to "formulate its mission, and establish goals and outcomes." (See attached.)

AP/dd
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Attachments