

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Honors College
231 Varner Hall, 370-4450
August 19, 1997

To: Dagmar R. Cronn, Chair
Senate University Steering Committee

From: Brian Murphy, Chair *BM*
Human Relations Committee

Subject: Annual Report of the Human Relations Committee, 1996-1997

1. Members: Rasul Chaudry, BIO
Robert Fink, SEHS, Director, Counseling
Patricia Montenegro, MLL
Brian Murphy, Chair
John Bello-Ogunu, RHT
Kenneth York, SBA
Rebecca Wickham, Residence Halls, Ass't. Director, Admin. Services

Guests: Sharon Abraham, Univ. Diversity & Compliance
Anahid Kulwicki, Nursing
Glenn McIntosh, Director OME

1. Information gathering about perception of campus racial climate, resources, programs, etc. From ABS committee, Black Faculty and Staff Advocacy and Support Group, and International Students Association. Drop-box established for information gathering.

Results: Black Faculty and Staff Advocacy: relatively positive responses. However, International Students Association—atmosphere is indifferent, isolated, without autos—daily living tasks can be problematic, alienating without their own food and opportunities for food preparation, dislocation when moving spring/summer, many move off campus—public transportation is limited—many must take cabs. Students expect to find hosts, don't—feel rejected. But no reported acts of overt hostility. Committee suggested creating a faculty-advisor position. This was agreed upon by Vice President M. Snyder, who has proposed a full-time administrative position.

2. Proposal to establish an Institute for the Healing of Racism was considered and discussed: suggestion is to invite members of the Institute for a presentation and discussion.
4. Suggestions by Human Relations Committee: Ethnic diversity Requirement; recommending creation of Diversity Coordinator in all university units; set up goals realization 1997-2000; establish a seminar series (one or two per year) on topic of diversity and tolerance; For international students—provide transportation to and from the local shopping centers (2-3 times a day) for international students; Food—make dorm available for special cooking. Make dorm moves less stressful. Prepare and communicate a report on the state of diversity at Oakland annually.
5. Open dialogues in open setting (e.g. Fireside Lounge) with guest speakers (e.g. Victoria Roberts, President of Michigan State Bar. Sponsor a conference (spring 1998) for faculty who teach courses fulfilling Ethnic Diversity Requirement.

Cc: Susan M. Awbrey, Ass't. Vice President
For Academic Affairs