

**Diversity Committee
Minutes for March 14, 2007**

Present: Frank Thielman, Divinity; Harold Goss, Library; Tim Welty, Pharmacy; Doug Smith, Business; Cindy Kirk, Metro; Jonathan Davis, Education; Joe Scrivner (chairing), A&S; Marcia McCormick, Law; LaMonica Orr, Black Law Students rep.

Joe Scrivner presented the following written summary of the meeting of the co-chairs with the Senate Executive Council.

As co-chairs of the committee, Nancy Whitt and Joe Scrivner met with the Senate Executive Council regarding the request on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Sarah Latham reported plans to begin the assessment as soon as possible, employing primarily Samford's Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE). In addition to data gathering, two specific assessment tools were mentioned: (1) the use of survey instruments on diversity already in existence, and (2) the use of focus group surveys. Sarah projected this assessment could be completed by next March with the surveys taking place this fall. She also indicated consultation with the committee during the planning and implementation of the assessment.

Joe also relayed the reasons Sarah cited regarding why institutions usually use third-party groups, such as questions of capacity, expertise, staff, lack of trust, etc. Sarah explained that OIE does have the capacity and staff to execute the requested assessment.

The committee discussed this report. Several questions were raised regarding the execution of such an assessment. These questions include:

- In addition to consultation with the diversity committee, will an expert on diversity in higher education be consulted in the selection of survey instruments?
- If OIE does have the capacity and expertise for such an assessment, can this be shown with specifics about costs, time, personnel, expertise in diversity surveys, etc.?
- Can OIE send out a "Request for Proposals" so that specifics can be compared?

In light of such questions, the committee determined that it was best to request a meeting with Sarah Latham for the sake of discussion and clarification. This meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 11.