

**Faculty Diversity Committee
Minutes – October 24, 2007**

Members present: Heather West, A&S; Jonathan Davis, Education; Frank Thielman, Divinity; Harold Goss, Library; Cindy Kirk, Metro; Joe Scrivner, A&S; Nancy Whitt, A&S; Sharon Jackson, Business

1. The committee discussed the visit of Dr. Lewis Shepherd on October 1-3. Dr. Shepherd's visit was a very positive first step in the committee's request for a diversity assessment. The committee is excited that this has taken place and is appreciative of the efforts of all involved in organizing his visit. The committee acknowledges being informed and consulted about his visit. The committee notes a few items of concern as well.
 - a. Since Dr. Shepherd's visit was scheduled quickly, there was not much time for deliberation and consultation on the groups with which he should meet. The committee was consulted, but more time to discuss and prepare for his visit would have made his visit more productive by facilitating his meeting with additional representative groups (e.g., African American faculty members in the law school). The committee also takes responsibility for not anticipating this sufficiently.
 - b. The committee has not been made aware of Dr. Shepherd's itinerary during his visit. The committee requests this information as soon as possible.
 - c. The committee also requests information regarding when Dr. Shepherd's report(s) will be made available.
 - d. The committee requests an update on and consultation in the choice of a scientific, diversity survey. This is the next step in the requested assessment.
2. After meeting with representatives from Christo Rey School in the previous committee meeting (see minutes), committee members reported various steps that have taken place or that are planned for further development of a relationship between Samford and this new secondary school. These steps include:
 - a. Cindy Kirk and Matt Kerlin met with Father Alex Steinmiller and Scott Denton on October 12. Among other things, they discussed adding Christo Rey as a service learning option for students.
 - b. Harold Goss contacted Christo Rey representatives about library orientation and access for students (via e-mail on Sept 24 and in later contacts).
 - c. Andy Westmoreland has agreed to meet with Father Steinmiller as soon as possible.
3. The committee is reviewing its description and charges in the faculty handbook. It will submit its report by November 9, as requested by the senate executive committee.
4. Marcia McCormick relayed a recent incident in the law school regarding some controversy over e-mail postings by students in a debate on federal legislation (the S-CHIP bill). The e-mail debate included some unfortunate language relating to race, ethnic groups, etc. Marcia McCormick, Cassandra Adams (director of Community Mediation in the law school) and Dean John Carroll met on how to handle this and other such situations. An initial faculty-student forum was held on Wednesday, October 23.