

Multicultural & Diversity Committee
November 2, 2006
179 KH (5-6)

Present: Anya Benitez, Laura Brumariu, Jessica Demmings, Brian Hall, Cynthia Khan, Sheethal Reddy

Issues discussed:

- 1) Undergraduate Seminar
- 2) Visibility of Committee/Social Events
- 3) Financial Issues
- 4) Website

The meeting began with a discussion of the undergraduate seminar that was held on October 26 in 102KH (see event report for more information). The hour-long seminar was attended by approximately 25-30 undergraduates and received largely positive feedback. Based on their evaluations, the seminar was a useful source of information on the graduate admissions process. The students felt that the seminar should be longer to allow for more speaking time for each panel member and for more Q & A time. They also commented on the need for more Master's level speakers as most speaker were in MA/PhD programs. The committee discussed how to incorporate these suggestions into the next seminar which will be held sometime during the Spring semester. In addition, the committee will continue in its efforts to recruit a more diverse student audience in keeping with its goals.

The second topic of discussion was how to increase awareness among the graduate student body about the committee. Several ideas were generated including the distribution of a quarterly newsletter to all faculty and students, and the importance of involving non-committee members in events and activities. The committee also has decided to host a departmental lunch (potluck) as the first social event (date and time TBA), which will be primarily organized by Jessica.

Third, the budget for the committee was discussed. Anya presented the committee with two possible grant opportunities: 1) APAGS \$500 grant with a deadline of December 1, 2006, and 2) a \$20,000 grant from the Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs. It was agreed that the committee will focus on the former grant application due to time constraints, but that the OEMA grant will be re-visited at a later time. Anya agreed to have a rough draft of the APAGS grant application distributed by November 13. The committee members will provide feedback. The committee members are currently looking for speakers to invite. Dr. Gordon Hall is one of the top choices.

Finally, the listserv for the committee has been established and Sheethal will be meeting with the website developers this week.