Multicultural Student Center Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, November 14, 2007  
2:30 p.m., Bolton 196

Present: Nicole Morales, Dao Vang, Diane Amour, Susan Fields, Ruth Russell, Edwin Maldonado, Victoria Pryor, Ramona Sledge, Linda Huang, Kate Coffaro (guest), Kathryn Silvestre (guest)

Brief Updates

- **UWS Strategic Framework to Advantage Wisconsin** – Linda distributed copies of a document that included lists of Think Tank Team members. Several UWM administrators, faculty, and staff are appointed to the following seven think tank teams: Prepare Students, More Graduates, High Paying Jobs, Stronger Communities, Resources, Operational Excellence, and Collaboration. They can be contacted if anyone has suggestions or questions.

- **Diversity Scholarships** – Linda distributed the 2008-2009 Scholarship Opportunities, which included two new scholarship programs: Chancellor’s Scholarship for Diversity and Leadership and Academic Achievement Leadership Award. These scholarships offer awards up to $20,000.

- **Housing** – RiverView is ready to be handed over to UWM. Currently, its occupancy for spring semester is at 80%.

- **Application/Admit Data** – Application is slower this year, though it has picked up in the past couple of weeks (perhaps due to the Open House or the long weekend). The slowness of application submissions (across UW System schools) may be due to the new essay requirement.

- **UWM New Enrollment Data** – Because of an administrative coding problem, UWM has released its new enrollment numbers. The new numbers showed increases for both new freshmen and undergraduate students of color enrollments.

**Lawton Grant**

Linda asked if multicultural offices are still involved in the Lawton Grant awarding process. The answer is no. There are also no set-aside funds for no-need students.

**Letters to Multiracial Applicants and Admits**

Linda mentioned that another draft will be emailed to everyone in the future. She’ll wait until Sherry comes back from vacation to set up these letters because of the need to order more letterheads. Linda also asked when the multicultural offices mail their letters. In most cases, letters are sent out on the same day via the afternoon mail pickup.

**Honors College**

Kate Coffaro and Kathryn Silvestre asked the multicultural offices to help recruit students of color into the Honors College. For new freshmen, the requirement is an ACT Composite of 26
or higher and a high school rank in the upper 40th percentile. Honors College also accepts continuing students. It takes 21 credits or seven courses (in 5-7 semesters) to complete the Honors degree. All these courses count toward GER. Susan inquired about the pool available for currently enrolled students of color.

Some of the perks offered by the Honors College include:

- Priority registration
- Scholarship awards available
- Access to a writing specialist for one-on-one consultation
- Small class size
- Smaller advisor to student ratio
- Best professors
- Great letters of recommendation
- Honors degree appears on transcript and diploma; can market Honors degree

Some recommendations for the Honors College include:

- Provide opportunities for students to meet and talk with speakers/presenters
- Offer internship opportunities
- Look at ACT subscores for students who do not have ACT composites of 26 or higher; students with high ACT scores are also recruited by other institutions.
- Target 11th graders
- Have faculty call students for a personal touch

Kate and Kathryn plan to contact individual offices to discuss recruitment strategies in more depth.

Round Robin

Nicole M. – Reported on SFC’s recommendation to eliminate funding for LINKS. It cited duplication of services. SFC is finalizing the vote this Saturday. If it’s passed, then it goes to the Senate for consideration. If the Senate disagrees with the vote, then it goes back to SFC. Senators are divided on this issue.