MESSAGE FROM MCAC CHAIR

Mary Pugh

It is my pleasure to serve as the new chair of MCAC. The committee is especially grateful to the past chair, Larry Gossett, for his hard work and leadership of MCAC since its inception in 1997. Over its history at UW, the committee has benefited greatly from his leadership and the service of numerous community leaders.

I am excited about the committee and the work that we will do together to strengthen diversity at UW. The members bring strong university, business and community connections, as well as a lot of enthusiasm and new energy. Everyone looks forward to sharing collective knowledge and resources as we advise President Young on ways to improve recruitment, retention and success of communities of color on campus.

The UW is an amazing resource for the community and the state. It provides a great education at prices that are very competitive for our students. We want to make sure that students, faculty and our communities have access to and utilize the university to ensure that we have diverse citizens that can take leadership positions in our region.

Committee Responsibilities

• Develop and carry out an annual work plan with concrete goals established in consultation with the President and the Vice President for Minority Affairs/Vice Provost for Diversity;
• Assist in resolving emerging issues or crises related to campus diversity by offering advice on proposed solutions or policy alternatives;
• Act as an ambassador for the UW in our communities;
• Work collaboratively with the President to identify opportunities to communicate about University activities and progress in communities of color;
• Maintain periodic communications with students, faculty, and staff to be aware of issues relevant to the recruitment and retention of persons of color;
• Present every September a concise annual report to the President of the University regarding the work plan and recommendation of the MCAC.

2012-2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

One of the MCAC’s top priorities was to formally expand access to and engage with UW President Michael K. Young to minority communities throughout the state of Washington. On May 23, the MCAC hosted a reception with President Young and prominent leaders of minority communities at the Daybreak Star Center in Seattle. The event allowed invited guests to meet with the President, MCAC members and other UW leaders to learn more about what the University is doing in these communities. Program speakers included MCAC members Larry Gossett, Marty Bluewater and Mary Pugh, Phyllis Gutierrez Kenny, as well as UW student Kendall Morgan. President Young and UW Vice President for Minority Affairs and Vice Provost for Diversity Sheila Edwards Lange also offered remarks.

Diversity is a core value of the UW and the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (OMA&D), along with campus partners, is committed to encouraging underrepresented minority (URM) students to not only apply to the University, but to accept their offers of admission. The MCAC made a priority to help the UW in these efforts, with a special emphasis on improving the percentage of URM students that accept admission offers, also known as “yield.” In March, MCAC members volunteered their time to make personal phone calls to 225 URM students who had received admission offers from the UW. They shared the benefits associated with a UW education and encouraged them to join the University community.

New members & priorities

The MCAC welcomed six new members to committee this year: Craig Dawson, Daniel Kaopuiki, Dean Lum, Jane Nishita, Estela Ortega and Denise Stiffarm. The Honorable Larry Gossett stepped down as chair of the committee after many years of service and Mary Pugh accepted the position as new chair. Other committee members include Rodrigo Barron, Mary Bluewater, Oscar Eason, Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, John McCoy, Sapina Pele, Romayne Watt.

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the UW Minority Community Advisory Committee (MCAC) is to advise the University President on special issues facing the University of Washington and to assist in strengthening and maintaining University connection with the communities of color, with special attention but not limited to the advancement of University diversity efforts and programs.”

= *Underrepresented Minority (African American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American)