

Diversity Committee 2003/2004

Members: Marti Alt, Eleanor Block, Beverly McDonald, Cyndi Preston, Charles Smith, Theresa Wei, and Pat McCandless, chair.

Exhibits, Web sites, collection development, programs, and hiring decisions at all levels, especially in the hiring of student assistants throughout the Libraries reflect our collective consciousness of diversity.

Some specific activities of the committee during the year were highlighting publications of the speakers in the President and Provost's Diversity Lecture Series. In some instances, various collection managers made a concerted effort to acquire items we did not own. The committee co-hosted the Day of Remembrance that Virginia Reynolds organized to celebrate the life of Toyo Kawakami, former Social Work librarian. "Flag Wars", a PBS video chronicling the gentrification of the near east side of Columbus, was shown during two brown bag lunches followed by discussion of the film.

Some members of the Committee and other faculty participated in the annual Diversity Conference, "Building Strength Through Inclusion", sponsored by the Ohio Library Council and attended the related Spectrum Dinner hosted by OCLC.

A visit to the University's Multicultural Center located in the Ohio Union last year resulted in recent discussion about including their library materials in our online catalog. Unfortunately a change in personnel in the Multicultural Center has put the project on hold.

Following the discussion of the Mary P. Key Residency at a faculty meeting and with the Policy and Planning Committee, the committee spent considerable time looking at residency programs across the country. Based on what we learned and the desire to retool the Residency, the committee changed the the program to meet a demonstrated need for an entry-level librarian and commitment to provide orientation to a large research library and professional development. Nine outstanding proposals were submitted. The Executive Committee reviewed all proposals and selected the one from FAES. The FAES' emphasis on bibliographic instruction in multiple formats afforded an opportunity to take advantage of the Instruction Office's proposal to work with the Resident in areas of instruction focused on a number of departments within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. A search committee (Pat McCandless, chair, Susan Logan, Fred Roecker, Chuck Popovich, and Cyndi Preston) has met to develop the position description and a timeline to have the Resident on board at the beginning of Spring Quarter.