

**Chancellor's African American Community Advisory Council  
Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 3:00 p.m.  
Media Room, Wendell H. Murphy Football Center**

**Minutes**

**Members present:** Marti Adams, Marcus Belvin, Alice Garrett, Carolyn Smiley Love, Mitchell Silver, Jim Stewart, J.J. Wilkins, Greg Williams, Sandra Williams, Melanie Wilson

**University Members:** Diane Baker, Christina Cox, Karrie Dixon, Niccoya Dobson, Marcia Gumpertz, Orlando Hankins, Larry Nielsen, Jim Oblinger, José Picart, Keith Powell, Jo-Ann Robinson

**Presenters:** José Picart

**Agenda Items:**

- **Call to Order**

Chairperson Jim Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **Welcome and Campus Update**

Chancellor Oblinger welcomed everyone and informed the council of current activities on campus. Chancellor Oblinger shared with the council that since the November 2007 noose incident all evidence has been turned over to the Wake County District Attorney's Office and no new discoveries have been identified to date. The leadership at NC State has been and is continuing to pursue other areas related to the incident in an effort to address concerns of the campus community. These areas include race sensitivity programs, student and employee conduct policies, and diversity crisis response plans. Chancellor Oblinger and other campus leaders have met with various groups on and off campus to discuss how to more effectively deal with incidences such as this and to determine how best to offer support to the faculty, staff and students.

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, NC State celebrated the "Year of Energy" with the dedication of North Carolina's largest grid-tied photovoltaic solar panel array, located on university property near the RBC Center in Raleigh. Following the ceremony was NC State's inaugural Energy Fair, which brought together concepts detailing how NC State and its partners can envision complex solutions to energy issues. Chancellor Oblinger stated that NC State will provide a significant leadership role in this effort.

Chancellor Oblinger announced that NC State will host the Emerging Issues Forum February 12-13, 2007. The Emerging Issues Forum will address transforming higher education to keep a competitive advantage for our state and its citizens. Among the many guest speakers, Chancellor Oblinger announced that Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, chair of the United Nations agency that shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore, is an alumnus of North

Carolina State University, where he also taught economics. He will talk about the science of global climate change and the threat to human health and the environment.

• **Future AACAC Projects/Initiatives**

Vice Provost Picart shared with the committee members a list of possible social capital and community engagement initiatives, which the Council members generated at the September meeting. He then asked the members to breakout into small groups to explore other ideas for university and community projects or initiatives that the Council and its members will pursue in the future.

• **Group Reports and Wrap UP**

At the conclusion of the small group discussions the meeting was adjourned and a summary of each groups deliberations was combined with the ideas that had been previously generated. Following is a summary of the possible social capital and community engagement initiatives:

**A. Student Recruiting**

- Create a video/slides to show successful African American faculty and students at NC State. Provide to schools, African American sports leagues and black churches. Melanie Wilson
- Engage African American church leaders in recruiting and fundraising. The African American Church Council was suggested as a possible place to start. – Brad Thompson
- Get NCSU students involved in Clarence Lightner Youth Leadership Academy – Brad Thompson
- Enhance coordination with Community Colleges to increase the number of African American transfer students into NC State from community colleges. – Sandra Williams

**B. Student Employment after Graduation**

- Engage the African American Coordinating Committee in identifying top African American students for corporate jobs in Raleigh/Triangle area. Invite corporate leaders to meet with top African American students at an NC State Social.

**C. Closing the Preparation Gap in K – 12**

- Community and campus collaboration on closing the achievement gap for K-12 AA children. The CAACAC could take an active role in spreading awareness about this national issue. They suggested producing fact flyers/brochures and seeking participation from Teaching Fellows and student groups in the College Of Education to help distribute them. Dr. Carol Love also suggested that CAACAC member, Alice Garrett, be provided the opportunity to present data on the achievement gap to the council. In addition, having Dr. Kelly Laraway, and the pre-college directors on board will help to spread the word/ fact sheets further as a means to creating more awareness.

- Training of future teachers on how they can help in this effort.

#### **D. Community Downtown (Brad Thompson)**

Have NC State work on beautification and preserving the cultural heritage of the downtown region roughly between Saint Augustine's College and Shaw University. Using the "Old East Raleigh Plan" as a model, there are two independent parts:

1. Have students to work through Volunteer Services in an organized, continuing effort on the beautification of the area.
2. Have faculty/staff/students, perhaps through the Center for Curricular Engagement, research the history of the area and design the appropriate signage and structures that preserve the areas culture.
3. This can be done in partnership with Saint Augustine's College and Shaw University.

#### **E. Increased Community Involvement (Marcus Belvin)**

Since individual African American faculty, staff, and students are involved in the community, but not necessary carrying the NC State "brand", we can work with the Council of Churches to have Leadership Institutes. These Institutes can be connected to expos that the churches periodically have. The Leadership Institutes can provide info and training to youth (such as technology careers, how to prepare for high school/college, etc.) and can be used for parent training (advocacy in schools, financial aid, etc.).

#### **• Adjourn**

Chairperson Stewart adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.