



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS

March 27, 2008

To: Dr. Seewha Cho, Lake Dziengel, Cari Fealy, Dr. Kerry Frank, Sr. Sharon Howell, Dr. Michael Jordan, Dr. Pamela Nice, Nancy Schoen, Sarah Spencer

From: _____
Lawrence T. Potter, Jr., PhD
Executive Director

RE: HDR Pilot Survey Materials

Dear Colleagues,

On March 5, you received an electronic email message from me indicating that I requested the co-chairs (Sarah Spencer, Seehwa Cho, and Kerry Frank) of the curricular/co-curricular integration and transformation diversity work-group to convene a series of meetings over the next month with the purpose to review collected data from the HDR Pilot Survey. The review of the data would assist the diversity work-group in compiling a recommendations report to be presented to UDAC at its April 25th meeting.

Based on the enclosed quantitative findings (*HDR Survey Pilot Evaluation Fall 2006 Methodology, Results, and Limitations Report—January 2007 and Fact Sheet—June 2007*¹ prepared by Institutional Research and Analysis) and the qualitative comments, I ask that this work-group identify recommendations and/or strategies that will:

1. strengthen the university core curriculum's human diversity requirement,
2. assist department chairs and/or faculty teaching HDR courses to utilize survey feedback in revising or enhancing courses,
3. systematize future HDR survey cycles and ongoing review of HDR courses offerings,
4. help cultivate professional development workshops focused on curriculum transformation, and
5. expand curriculum to include a variety of perspectives, discussions of social contexts, including issues of equity and justice.

¹ The fact sheet includes all HDR surveys returned during the fall and spring administrations. Institutional Research and Analysis did not include j-term data due to the small numbers and uniqueness of the term.

At the request of Dr. Michael Jordan, I have asked Sarah to involve the new HDR review committee co-chairs (Drs. Sherry Jordon and Lisa Waldner). It is my understanding that these two faculty “are succeeding in transforming that committee from a passive committee that reviews proposals to a committee that goes out and tries to help faculty figure out how to strengthen their diversity courses.” I think it would be good practice to extend an invitation to Katie Berry, USG VP for Academic Affairs or Alfonso Wenker, chair of the Student Diversity Relations Committee (SDR), to be involved in these discussions also.

Last October, my office worked with Dr. Steven Lumakis to organize a panel discussion on GLBT issues and the HDR during *CommUNITY Week*. The panel included faculty, students and staff who shared insights about GLBT issues and diversity as they relate to St. Thomas’ curriculum. It was well attended and provided another forum for expanding dialogue on diversity in the curriculum. Additionally, the Student Diversity Relations Committee organized an HDR information sharing session for students on March 26. I was not able to attend this session, but hope that there was some useful feedback. I have enclosed each of the panel agendas for your review.

Sarah Spencer has agreed to take the lead on pulling the group together and I will defer to her lead on contacting work-group members to organize meeting dates and times. Thanks for your continued support and hard work. I look forward to receiving the report at the April 25th UDAC meeting.