

January 16, 2006

Dear Members of the Executive Board:

Receive my greetings and wishes for good health. The Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology has the honor to present its annual report. In this report, we outline our accomplishments for the year 2005 and set our goals for the year 2006. In particular, we would like to call your attention to the steps the Committee has taken to participate and support the Public Education Initiative on Race.

We would like to express our wholehearted appreciation and gratitude for the work of Kathleen Terry-Sharp and Melissa Coates. They are truly splendid administrators and friends.

Truly yours,

Carla Guerrón-Montero, Chair
Department of Anthropology
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716
Phone: (302) 831-3362
Email: cguerron@udel.edu

Stated Tasks, 2005

In our 2004 annual report we established the following goals for 2005:

1. Organize 2 invited sessions for the 2005 AAAs.
2. Administer the Minority Dissertation Fellowship, including selecting a recipient.
3. Develop a long-range plan of action based on one of the following possibilities---- increasing the endowment of the minority dissertation award, mentoring of minoritized students, or hiring of minoritized faculty. Our goal is to focus our energies over the next couple of years while strengthening our work with sections such as ABA, ALLA, among others.
4. Monitor the AAA's reaction to the Hilton strike.

Completed Tasks, 2005

We have accomplished the following goals:

1. We organized one invited session for the meetings in Washington, DC. The panel: "Show me the Money: Critical Issues in Minority Research Funding," co-organized by Carla Guerrón-Montero and Cheryl Rodriguez, took place on Friday December 2, 2005. The panel was well attended and received positively.
2. We selected a winner of the Minority Dissertation Fellowship. This year's recipient is Russell Rodriguez. Camille Bernier and Yarimar Bonilla were the honorable mentions. There were 25 qualified applicants. Mr. Russell Rodriguez was honored with a luncheon at the AAA meeting. Partial funding for this luncheon came from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Delaware and the Department of Anthropology, Sociology, and Social Work at Whittier College. The remaining funds came from personal funds of the members of the Committee.
3. We maintained channels of communication with AAA's sections and committees. We introduced the work of the Committee to these sections and committees, and invited them to work closely with CMIA on diversity initiatives.
4. We continued and strengthened the work of the Committee in its efforts to improve the diversity climate of the Association. With this purpose in mind, we accepted the invitation of Dr. Alan Goodman to discuss and suggest specific ways to achieve this goal.
5. We have continued our participation in the Public Education Initiative on Race. At our annual business meeting, we held conversations with Faye Harrison, Cheryl Rodriguez, and Miguel Diaz-Barriga, to brainstorm ways to participate and support the initiative in a concrete manner. In addition, we are in close communication with Peggy Overbey and Yolanda Moses on this subject. We agreed to form a subcommittee (Karen Nakamura, Patricia Mathews-Salazar, Najwa Adra, Michael Winkelman, and Carla Guerrón-Montero) that will write a proposal to be submitted to Alan Goodman and the board members of the Public Education Initiative on Race.

In addition to these activities we also accomplished the following:

1. We initiated the process of documenting the historical memory of the organization.

Abandoned Tasks

We did not abandon any of our tasks.

Remaining Issues

1. We have continued discussion of the Minority Dissertation Fellowship including eligibility and ways to increase the number of applicants. To this effect, we have discussed the possibility of applying for further funding to create a new fellowship for community college students and to increase the endowment of the current Minority Dissertation Fellowship. We have discussed the possibility of looking for corporate sponsorship for this purpose.
2. The Committee has been following the AAA's reaction to the labor issues related to the annual meetings in 2004, and is aware of the move from San Francisco to San Jose for 2006 as a result of these issues. The Committee will continue to observe this issue in 2006.

Budget Issues

As was true for last year the CMIA has been frustrated by budget issues, including:

1. The funding and expansion of the Minority Dissertation Award.
2. The funding of a reception at the AAA meetings. The CMIA reception at the annual meetings served as a good tool for bringing members of minoritized groups together.
3. The Committee believes that the work of Kathleen Terry-Sharp and Melissa Coates has been outstanding. The Committee would like to suggest that they receive further support from AAA in order to support further initiatives of the Committee.

Plans for 2005

1. Organize two invited sessions for the 2006 annual meetings. Options include a panel on anti-racist pedagogy at the post-secondary level, and a panel (potentially co-organized with Council of Anthropology and Education and/or the Anthropology and Education Committee) that will discuss ways in which anthropology can enrich the curriculum of high schools and community colleges
2. Administer the Minority Dissertation Fellowship, including selecting a recipient.
3. Create a concrete proposal for the participation on CMIA on the Public Education Initiative on Race.
4. Develop a concrete list of suggestions to improve the diversity climate in the Association.
5. Continue and increase our relationship with sections and committees of AAA.

General Issues—

The CMIA accomplished a number of goals and worked with a variety of sections and initiatives within the AAAs. We look forward to conducting our normal duties, such as administering the dissertation award, while continuing our collaborations with several AAA Committees. In particular, we would like to reiterate the Committee's willingness and commitment in working with President Alan Goodman and the Public Education Initiative on Race. In addition, we are also in the process of identifying a long-term project in order to focus the activities of our committee. Finally, as was true last year, we have been hampered in our attempts to gain funding for more minority fellowships and conferences, and to make our presence known more widely at the annual meetings through reception events.