Committee Charge:

Create and assist in the implementation of a plan to foster a campus climate in which there is a proactive commitment to diversity as a basic value of the college. This will include coordinating awareness and training activities. In all our initiatives we must emphasize the development of good character and must model the values of inclusion, mutual respect, and cooperation.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Several committee members offered comments on the movie Freedom Writers:

- we sell students short and do not maximize their potential
- the strategy to have students focus on their shared experiences was very astute
- she utilized their own cultures to reach them with a message of hope
- an eye-opener very thought-provoking
- a great movie confidence-building

The Hispanic-Latino Heritage radio trivia contest did not take place due to problems with securing funding. A similar activity will be planned for next year.

The committee discussed the need for a Diversity Council budget in order to fund activities such as bringing in quality guest speakers. This prompted a discussion of acceptable uses of funding and greater accountability in light of recent state-wide developments. Further clarification is needed on the issue of a committee budget.

A wheelchair tour of the campus was discussed again as a way to promote Disability Employment Awareness Month. The issue was tabled for the time being.

In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, Mr. Barrentine has also arranged a performance of the Poarch Medicine Band during the 11:00 a.m. student activity period on November 28th. The library will have pertinent displays and will publicize them via e-mail and the college’s web page.

The ACSHRMA Diversity Conference was discussed. The committee decided to investigate the possibility of having one of the presenters speak at our December diversity workshop. Dr. McBride will contact Ms. Audrey LeGrand and Mr. Kenneth Anderson to see if either of them is available.

Future dates were discussed in terms of our annual diversity activity and Dr. McBride suggested that President’s Day might be a better time for such workshops instead of December. This date in 2008 is already taken for QEP, but the 2009 slot should be available.

The December workshop is to be held December 12th with a brunch on campus from 8:00 -10:30 in conjunction with some required updates from the Executive Council regarding the Family and Medical Leave Act, ethics training, SACS, and on-the-job injuries.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 27th at 1:30 in the library. The reading assignment is Chapter 11 - Awareness Training: Panacea and Problem.