1. President's Remarks
President Randy Helm began the meeting by congratulating members of the Committee: Ms. Melanie Ferrara and the Sedehi Diversity Project members, for their work before and during Orientation; Mr. Adrian Shanker, for speaking at the Martin Luther King 50th Anniversary in Washington, D.C.; and Mr. Chris Hooker-Haring, Ms. Cynthia Amaya-Santiago, and the entire Admission & Financial Aid Staff, for delivering the most diverse class in the College’s history. He noted that while overall diversity in the class is moving in the right direction, that does not mean that we have any reason for complacency or that we have achieved our goals in every component of the overall multicultural enrollment numbers. He also noted that the College was ranked #7 on a list of LGBT-friendly institutions with religious affiliations.

2. Review of Proposed Revisions to the Diversity Statement and Mission Statement
Dr. Janine Chi distributed two documents: proposed changes to the College’s Mission Statement; and proposed changes to the College’s Diversity Statement. She reminded the Committee that the Subcommitte was comprised of Mr. Gil Schpero, Mr. Matt Dicken, Mr. Zachary Tanne, Mr. Troy Dwyer, and herself. The Subcommittee was charged with reviewing the two statements to see if any edits were desirable. Dr. Chi reported that the Subcommittee suggested one change for the Mission Statement. Dr. Chi asked about the process for changing the Statement and the President said the draft will be posted online for comment by community. Any suggested changes will be reviewed by the Committee, and a final draft will then be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval. Dr. Teissere said that he believed the first citation of the word “diversity” should perhaps be changed, as he believes its intention is different than the next two citations of the word; he suggested that perhaps the word “breadth” be substituted for “diversity,” with the clause then reading, “committed to understanding the breadth of the human experience,” instead. It was suggested that the Committee turn its attention to the Diversity Statement, as the discussion around that document may inform any further edits to the Mission Statement the Committee might feel would be necessary.

The Committee turned its attention the Diversity Statement. Dr. Chi took the Committee through the proposed changes, and further changes were suggested by several Committee members. Dr. Chi and the Recorder made note of the proposed changes. Discussion ensued on how the Committee should share this draft with the wider community. Dr. Chi, Dr. Kim Gallon, and Mr. Dicken spoke toward waiting to share the draft until further work has been done by the...
Committee, which will in turn inform the draft as we proceed with our planning. Dr. Chi stated that the draft could be used to develop buy-in among groups in the community. Mr. Corey Goff asked if the statement could be used in select groups, but Dr. Gallon cautioned about having some segments of the community aware of the statement draft while others are not. The President said that we must be systematic about informing all the segments of the community. A long discussion followed.

In conclusion, Mr. Chris Hooker-Haring stated that, based on the discussion, it seems that we will need three plans: a data gathering plan based on the results of the subcommittee’s work, a roll-out plan for the Diversity Statement, and a concurrent listening plan so that we can attempt to record and interpret the experiences of different groups on campus.

The President said that, at our next meeting on September 11, we will participate in the Visioning Exercise prepared by Dr. Gallon, Rev. Callista Isabelle and Ms. Robin Riley-Casey, then hear the Admissions presentation from Mr. Hooker-Haring and Ms. Cynthia Amaya-Santiago.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Butler, Recorder