July 10, 2009

TO:       Satish Udpa, Dean  
           College of Engineering

FROM:  Theodore Caldwell, Chairperson  
        Diversity Initiatives Advisory Committee  
        College of Engineering

RE:  Committee Report of Activities

In October of 2008, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Thomas Wolff and I met to discuss the current state of the Diversity Initiatives Advisory Committee (DIAC) and what we thought the committee’s agenda should be moving forward. As the Chairperson and Director for the Diversity Programs Office (DPO), my opinion as expressed during my meeting with Dr. Wolff was that the DIAC should serve as an advisory committee to the DPO as well as the College at-large and be comprised of faculty, staff, community representatives, corporate representatives, College of Engineering alumni and students, both undergraduate and graduate. Additionally, I believe that this committee should actively participate in some of the annual programs presented by the DPO such as:

- Pre-College programs: Engineering and Science Summer Academy (ESSA) bridge program and the Academic Intensive Summer Residential Program (AISRP) pre-college program.
- “The Need for Diversity in the STEM Fields” annual panel
- Assisting Development in identifying potential donors to the new DPO Endowment and working with them to secure donations from those individuals.
- Working with DPO to communicate to the College of Engineering faculty, staff, students and shareholders the mission, programs and initiatives of the DPO.

To ensure that these objectives are met, one of the first items on the DIAC’s agenda for 2009-2010 will be to revise the bylaws. It is also my belief that, beginning in Fall 2009, this committee should begin to meet on a quarterly basis.

While the DIAC did not meet at all during this past academic year, it is my plan to convene the group early during Fall Semester 2009 to begin to address this new and aggressive agenda.