

Annual Report 2004-2005

Race and Ethnicity Curriculum Development Committee (RECD)

Rebecca Stuhr, Chair.

Committee Members: John Fennell, Karen Shuman, and Henry Rietz

The RECD Committee has been more or less in a dormant state since 2002 when the funds available to it were transferred to the Instructional Support Committee. At that time we ceased to look at applications for curricular support. During the 2004-2005 academic year we attempted to regroup and rethink our mission. We considered bringing the artist Roger Shimomura to campus, but due to a variety of reasons including my inability to make contact with the artist, this did not happen. As chair of the committee, I had discussions with the chair of FOC, Jon Andelson, and Associate Dean Jon Chenette (who attends the Instructional Support Committee meetings) about the future of RECD. We decided that RECD should go ahead and talk about possible programs and request financial support from ISC or Rosenfield, or other sources. We also decided to consider rolling RECD into the new combined Africana Studies-American Studies program.

At this time, and after lengthy discussion with Henry Reitz, we have decided to continue on for another year and perhaps longer while American Studies becomes established as a department. In fact, if we make progress in the coming year, we may choose to continue indefinitely. American Studies can be defined broadly and should go beyond race and ethnicity. In contrast, fostering the development of courses addressing race and ethnicity is clearly the mission of this committee.

All members of the committee are continuing on for the new academic year. We have a number of possible projects including collecting syllabi from colleges similar to ourselves. We will investigate funding available to bring in faculty from other colleges, ACM and otherwise, to give mini courses and/or to meet with faculty to discuss ideas for adding components related to race and ethnicity to existing courses. We would also like to do some general advocacy on campus—encouraging attendance at relevant conferences (funding available through ISC). We will also start anew in bringing Roger Shimomura to campus during the upcoming academic year.

I hope that next year's annual report will show that the committee has taken strides to become active fulfilling its mission to increase representation of race and ethnicity in the Grinnell College curriculum.