

June 15, 2010

TO: Rick Pointer, Acting Provost

FROM: Jesse Covington, Department of Political Science

RE: Diversity Recruitment Activities 2009-2010

Having recently conducted a successful search, hiring itself has not been a central departmental concern this year. Instead, our efforts in the area of diversity recruitment are reflected primarily in networking and program/curricular development. Here are a few items of note:

- Susan Penksa, while on sabbatical in Brussels, Belgium, has continued to develop and expand her network of international contacts.
- Susan was awarded a 2010 Fulbright Follow-On Grant to return to Bosnia, in part to “initiate a feasibility assessment on the establishment of a study abroad program of Westmont College in Sarajevo.” A program of this kind would offer an array of diverse opportunities to Political Science majors.
- Susan also networks through ongoing membership in Women in International Security (WIIS), and the International Studies Association (ISA) Section of Women and Gender.
- In collaboration with a female political science major, Tom Knecht is conducting a research project on gender roles on Christian college campuses.
- In planning for an academic conference (on evangelical political theory and natural law) that Westmont will host next year, I have had the opportunity to expand my professional network in ways that reflect theological diversity. This conference has the potential for particularly fruitful Catholic-Protestant dialogue. In addition, one of the invitees who will attend and present a paper is a person of color.
- I have maintained contact with a female Westmont graduate currently pursuing a PhD in political science and who is also a person of color.
- The department has been able to continue employing Corinna McKoy as an adjunct professor, teaching courses in comparative politics. As we continue to review the political science course offerings in this area, we foresee comparative politics as an area in which a future hire of a fourth full-time colleague would contribute significantly to the diversity of the department’s offerings.