February 2, 2004 Faculty Meeting

The Committee on Diversity recently assumed new leadership, as the group's convener, John Ernst, was replaced by co-chairs Tom Ossowski and Chuck Springwood. The Committee continues to meet and to work closely with the Multicultural Study Group and administrators to better understand its scope and value in the context of the enlivened campus-wide conversation about diversity. In particular, our committee is committed to sustaining the energy of the MCSG and to begin implementing various of its charges.

While not exclusively a faculty committee, the Committee on Diversity remains a standing committee, overwhelmingly comprised by faculty appointed annually by the Nominating Committee. Our committee invites faculty input at any time, and later this spring, plans to host a Non-Org discussion about its long range agenda. In addition, the committee is preparing to bring to campus Scott Seomin, leader of a Hollywood chapter of GLAD, to engage students and faculty on issues of diversity.

On this date, February 2, the Committee on Diversity wishes to introduce the following statement, formally proposing that it be approved as an official IWU Faculty Resolution.

Be it resolved that the faculty of Illinois Wesleyan University condemns the violent threats that were directed in the fall of 2003 toward members of the Illinois Wesleyan community who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. Be it also resolved that the faculty of Illinois Wesleyan reaffirms that it is "committed to diversity," including differences in sexual orientation and gender identity.