Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of Faculty of Color (FOC)
End of Year Report
Spring 2014
Submitted by Dr. Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, Co-Chair &
Dr. Elizabeth Sweet, Co-Chair

Current Members:
David Organ, Geography and Urban Studies
Donna Marie Peters, Sociology
Karen Turner, Journalism
Former Mayor John F. Street, consultant Political Science
Wilbert Roget, French
Marie Amey Taylor, Department of Education
Rickie Sanders, Geography and Urban Studies
Latanya Jenkins, Librarian
Lee Kenneth Richardson, Theater
Elizabeth Sweet, Geography and Urban Studies
Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon, Theater

David Waldstreicher, History rotated off this year.

For our sixth year, FOC continued its collaboration with the Temple Libraries and presented yet another stimulating year of our Chat-in-the-Stacks speakers series.

On September 26, 2013, we presented Trayvon Martin, Stand Your Ground and Self Defense: Could It Happen Here in Pennsylvania with guest presenters D. A. Seth Williams. Daily News editor Michael Days and Professor Anthony Monterio from African American Studies.

On November 7, 2013 we sponsored a Chat on American Unions with Dr. Joseph Schwartz, former Temple grad and Federation of Teachers spokesperson Rosalind Jones-Johnson and Micah Kleit from the Temple Press.

Our February 13, 2014 Chat on Black Philadelphians was canceled because of a snowstorm that closed the university. But on March 27, 2014 we presented a Chat on Violence Against Women with Dr. Elizabeth Sweet, from the Department of Geography and Urban Studies, Carmen Guerrero a community organizer in Montgomery and Norristown PA since 2003 and Kate Schaeffer, Program Coordinator for Alcohol & Other Drugs, Interpersonal Violence, and Mental Health with the Temple University Wellness Resource Center.

On April 23, FOC and the Temple Libraries cosponsored our final Chat-in-the-Stacks program for the 2013-14 school year by honoring three senior scholars Dr. Wilbert Roget, Department of French, Dr. Howard Myrick, Communications and Media Studies and Dr. Bettye Collier-Thomas, Department of History in a special panel discussion and awards ceremony. As always, all of our Chat-in-the-Stacks speakers’ series talks are taped by TUTV
and are broadcast on the Temple University television station and are available for streaming on their website.

In addition to our bi-monthly meetings, FOC also cosponsored an event with Moonstone Inc. and the African American Studies Department on Charlotte Forten; suggested a symposium to the larger Faculty Senate steering committee, and organized 5 planning meetings for the upcoming Diversity Symposium for October 28, 2014. Members of the FOC committee will be working over the summer to facilitate that upcoming symposium.

FOC members Rickie Sanders, Donna Marie Peters, Karen Turner, Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon and Elizabeth L. Sweet formed a Women of Color writing on race group. To date the group has written and submitted a book chapter regarding their experiences teaching race at Temple. The group is in the process of developing a broader research agenda, has submitted and IRB application, and is applying for grants to fund their research.

FOC Co-Chairs Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon and Elizabeth L. Sweet along with ACCORD President and FOC member Karen Turner wrote an article for the Faculty Harold regarding the final chat for the academic year and provided primary data regarding the state of diversity within the faculty at Temple.

On December 4, 2013 FOC facilitated a meeting with the committee of the status of women chair in an effort to develop collaborative projects. We will continue to pursue joint activities and work.

On March 17, 2014 the FOC wrote and sent a letter to Senator Robert P. Casey, JR. regarding the National Park Services’ closure of the Mary McLeod-Bethune House. We urged the senator to spearhead an effort to re-open this extremely important museum.