

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2012
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Rick Barrow, Dannette Beane, Aaron Bond, Tom Brown, Catherine Cotrupi, Nicole DaDamio, Ross Edmonds, Amy Hogan, Jermaine Holmes, Hal Irvin, Marwa Abdel Latif, William Lewis, Mark Managuio, Karisa Moore, Lesley Moyo, Corinne Noiro, Bill Ortega, Emily Satterwhite, Yannis Stivachtis, Jody Thompson, Mary Ellen Verdu, Leighton Vila

ABSENT: Chris Atkins, Kim Beisecker, Amer Fayad, Anthony Lovelace (with notice), Jacqueline Nottingham, Susan Rosebrough (with notice), Sue Ott Rowlands, Sherri Simmons (with notice), Guy Sims, Cris Thompson, Alasia Washington

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Samantha Boyd, Markus Breitschmid, Perry Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chair Yannis Stivachtis. Motion to adopt the agenda was approved.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presenting at the next CEOD meeting on November 12th will be SGA and the Office for Student Affairs (Dr. Guy Sims). The CEOD 2012-2013 presentation schedule is posted on the Scholar Site.

III. UPDATES FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

William Lewis, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion discussed with members concerns regarding the use of Native American imagery during homecoming week and indigenous issues at Virginia Tech. Dr. Lewis reported that he had met with Guy Sims, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ray Williams, Director for Multicultural Programs and Services, to discuss the issues at hand. Mr. Williams has alerted some key stakeholders within the Division of Student Affairs of the recent events. Dr. Sims is going to recommend that the Homecoming Rules Committee introduce the Principles of Community as a guide to help students present their ideas, and themselves in a manner consistent with the university values of diversity and inclusion. It was recommended that CEOD draft a letter to the university community expressing its concerns over the Homecoming campaign. Ross Edmonds and Leighton Vila offered to assist in the drafting of a letter along with the Chair and Vice Chair of CEOD. Dr. Lewis will convene a meeting to discuss responses to the Homecoming concerns as well as current and emerging efforts by university partners to foster an inclusive environment for American Indian faculty, staff, students, and community members.

IV. PRESENTATION ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS – MARKUS BREITSCHMID

Markus Breitschmid, Associate Professor/Core Professional Program Chair with the School of Architecture and Design provided members with a list of Catholic holidays. He shared concerns that a list of religious holidays provided by the Office of the University Registrar was not inclusive enough. Members discussed a proposal to identify the religious and ethnic holidays that were not on the list provided as a reference to faculty by the Registrar's Office, including more diverse and more inclusive list of holidays.

Yannis asked Perry Martin to invite a representative from the Registrar's Office and the Office of University Relations to discuss about the religious holidays and the university calendar with CEOD members in an upcoming meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am, with sub-groups convening. The next meeting will be on November 12th at 10:00am, GLC Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity