

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Aaron Bond, Tom Brown, Sam Cook, Catherine Cotrupi, Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Amy Hogan, Jermaine Holmes, Marwa Abdel Latif, Mark Managuio, Lesley Moyo, Wornie Reed, Laura Rugless, Sherri Simmons, Guy Sims, Yannis Stivachtis, Jody Thompson, Mary Ellen Verdu

ABSENT: Chris Atkins, Rick Barrow, Dannette Gomez-Beane, Nicole DaDamio (with notice), Hal Irvin, William Lewis (with notice), Corinne Noirot, Jacqueline Nottingham, Bill Ortega (with notice), Susan Rosebrough, Sue Ott Rowlands, Emily Satterwhite, Cris Thompson, Leighton Vila, Alasia Washington

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Samantha Boyd, Perry Martin, Karisa Moore, Pam Vickers

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 4TH, 2013 MEETING

Motion to accept minutes for February 4th, 2013 were approved.

III. UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Perry Martin provided a brief update regarding the Diversity Strategic Plan realignment with the University Plan for a New Horizon 2012-2018. Meetings with the focus groups ended in December 2012. Results for a revised Diversity Strategic Plan for 2013-2018, will be provided in a draft form to be shared with the President and Provost this week. The draft will be shared with the Diversity Strategic Plan subgroup today after the CEOD meeting. A discussion with the entire CEOD commission is scheduled for the March 18th meeting. An electronic version will go out to all members prior to this meeting.

Perry announced the “Common Grounds” Strong Together event scheduled for Friday February 22nd, 2013, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by Cranwell International Center, CISO, and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m., in GLC Multipurpose Room. The monthly gatherings are where Virginia Tech students get together with members of the Blacksburg community for a night of fun, games, and good food.

IV. ADA SERVICES PRESENTATION AND Q&A

Pamela Vickers, University ADA Coordinator, Office of Equity and Access presented to members a folder containing ADA questions and answers, pre-employment do's and don'ts, ADA overview of revised Title II and Title III regulations, and information on service animals. Pam explained to members the definition of ADA and what was covered under each title. She added that ADA also deals with parking issues, building, grounds, and facilities issues. Pam gave specific examples of ADA-related projects including signage around Burruss Hall and other projects in process including redesigning ramps at Wallace and Price Hall, and automatic doors at Holden and Engel Hall.

Pam answered questions from members regarding the possibility of adding another position to ADA services, budget questions, issues with the visitor center, consideration for web design and publications, and the distinction between long-term and short-term disability, explaining that under the amendment act short-term can be covered under ADA, depending on the severity.

V. WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

Catherine Cotrupi commented on the discussion on creating more single-user restrooms, stating there was nothing new to report from the last meeting.

Chair, Yannis Stivachtis provided the schedule for working group reports. The first draft will be sent to Perry Martin on April 1st, to be posted on Scholar. Secondly, reports will be discussed at the CEOD meeting on April 22nd, with the final reports due on May 6th.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Ross Edmonds provided an update on the Senate Bill 701. A Virginia House of Delegates subcommittee voted to kill the SB 701 last week. The committee hearing was filmed by Equality Virginia.

Chair, Yannis Stivachtis discussed the upcoming elections for CEOD positions. Available positions will be replacement for Vice Chair, Lesley Moyo. This position can be faculty or staff. Also available is an at-large position which is open to employees or students with the term of service dependent on whether to person elected is an employee or student. Two new members will also be elected to University Council, serving one year appointments. A CEOD subcommittee normally handles the election process.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m., with sub-groups convening. The next meeting will be held on March 4th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., GLC Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity