

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, April 10, 2017
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mike Bowers, Tom Brown, David Clubb, Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Deyu Hu, Maria Cana Jimenez, Bradley Klein, Robin Lawson, Sarah Leftwich (for Jack Finney), Erika Meitner, Sandra Muse, Inga Haugen for (Jennifer Nardine), Kelly Oaks, Patty Perillo, Menah Pratt-Clarke, Robin Queen, Takumi Sato, Chris Saunders, Elizabeth Spingola, Ed Nelson for (G. Don Taylor), Jim Dubinsky for (Christine Tysor), James Venable, Pamela Vickers, Michele Waters, Lisa Wilkes, Betty Wilkins, Daron Williams, John Gray Williams.

ABSENT: Melissa Elliott, Amer Fayad, Logan Glascoe, Stefanie Metko, Mahek Nigam, Rosemary Goss, Sean Zhang.

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Joe Frazier, Andrew Peck, Marcy Schnitzer, Diane Zahm

WELCOME

Mary Beth Dunkenberger called the meeting to order. Introductions were provided by members and proxy's attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from March 13th meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Marcy Schnitzer talked about the President's InclusiveVT Executive Council meeting that was held on March 28th. She said there were great presentations regarding model inclusion and diversity practices on campus. A follow-up meeting is being scheduled to discuss committee structure.

OFFICE FOR INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY UPDATES

Marcy Schnitzer announced the Women's Alliance Conversations to be held on Monday April 10th, at 1:30pm, in the Owens Banquet Hall. These conversations are for AP/Faculty and Staff.

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke talked about the Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference (FWCA) held on April 2nd and 3rd at Virginia Tech. She said it was a very successful conference, with over 400 attending.

Dr. Pratt-Clarke announced plans for two summer camps that will be held at Virginia Tech this summer: ExploreVT for underrepresented students, June 25-29; and Black College Institute (BCI) Pre-College Program, July 5-8, for students who identify as African-American or Black. These camps are designed to attract underrepresented students who have a vision for college attendance.

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ombuds Resolution: A motion to approve the resolution was seconded and passed. Discussion concerned whether the ombuds office would be exempt from Title IX reporting. Other campuses have enacted limits to confidentiality for their ombuds offices. The national ombuds association has received a legal opinion supporting confidentiality. The university Safety and Security committee is considering the structure of the office. A vote was held on the resolution, with 15 approving, 3 opposed, and 8 abstentions.
- b. Pathways: The resolution passed University Council. They are now in conversation with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs regarding a call for proposals and funding.
- c. Faculty/Staff Equity Workgroup: The Women's Alliance has requested a meeting with President Sands to discuss the findings of the Women's Conversations and research about other institutions. The Alliance may be requesting a letter of support from CEO.
- d. Gender Identity and Banner: Patty Perillo talked about bathroom issues for transgender students, and how constituencies are becoming frustrated that the project is taking so long. She discussed bids on certain buildings and potentially renovation of bathrooms. She said her staff was engaged to make a meeting happen to solve this issue. Discussed were concerns about violating Virginia's building and plumbing codes. It was suggested to talk with Sherwood Wilson in May, so that CEO would have more information on the codes.
- e. Governance and Recognition: The Principles of Community award winner could not be announced at this time.
- f. Diversity Work Compensation and Service Recognition: The workgroup will meet with Lisa Wilkes in April. More information will follow.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. SGA Resolution on Anti-Semitism response: Andrew Peck, Jewish Student Union talked about bias related incidents and safety concerns for the Jewish Community, and how to deal with these issues in the future. The commission discussed appropriate ways to communicate bias related incidents to the campus community. A letter of support for the SGA resolution was discussed.
- b. Women's Alliance Request to President to Establish Council on Gender Equity: More information will be shared at the April 10 meeting
- c. Vice Chair and University Council Elections for FY2018: Deyu Hu will take over the role of CEO Chair on July 1. Mary Beth discussed upcoming CEO positions for FY2018.

- d. Caucus and Representative commission Reports: Liz Spingola reported on a dialogue held by the Disability Alliance and Caucus on accessibility issues on campus. The results from the dialogue were troubling, and have been shared with the Department of Equity and Accessibility. Liz will provide a more in depth presentation at the April 10 meeting.

FULL MEETING ADJOURNMENT AND WORKGROUP GATHERINGS

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M. The final meeting of the semester will be May 1, 10:30am-12:00pm, in the GLC Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Office for Inclusion and Diversity