

**COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**  
**GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B**

**Meeting Minutes**

**PRESENT:** Dannette Gomez-Beane, Tom Brown, Sam Cook, Nicole DaDamio, Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Amy Hogan, Hal Irvin, Marwa Abdel Latif, Mark Managuio, Lesley Moyo, Corinne Noirot, Wornie Reed, Susan Rosebrough, Sue Ott Rowlands, Laura Rugless, Emily Satterwhite, Guy Sims, Yannis Stivachtis, Jody Thompson, Mary Ellen Verdu, Leighton Vila, Alasia Washington

**ABSENT:** Chris Atkins, Rick Barrow (with notice), Aaron Bond, Catherine Cotrupi, Jermaine Holmes, William Lewis (with notice), Jacqueline Nottingham, Bill Ortega, Sherri Simmons, Cris Thompson

**GUESTS:** Marcie Bishop, Mike Kutnak, Perry Martin, Karisa Moore, Pam Vickers

**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 with amendments to the presentation schedule.

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> (REVISED) AND NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETINGS**

Motion to accept revised minutes from October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved. Motion to accept minutes for November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Provost, Dr. Mark McNamee will visit CEOD at the next meeting on December 3rd. Yannis Stivachtis asked the members of working groups to be prepared with reports for the Provost.

Rick barrow will be stepping down from the commission. A replacement will soon be identified.

**IV. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

Leighton Vila handed out a hard copy of the drafted letter regarding the CEOD's response to recent activities and university responses connected to a recent student homecoming campaign. Members were asked to review and provide feedback on the contents and format of the letter that was to be sent out to the university community. Members expressed concerns ongoing concerns about the need for a more thorough response and the need for compulsory activities or programs that would educate the campus as to issues related to bias and

stereotypes. Other concerns were raised of other recent incidents that promoted negative stereotypes toward international students and diverse cultures were raised.

After review of the letter, members discussed the length of the letter and were concerned if a lengthy letter would be read by members of the campus. Dean Sue Ott Rowlands suggested further editing for typos and suggested that the letter be shortened to increase its impact. Ross Edmonds suggested that the letter could be amended to be inclusive of a response to other recent incidents that were counter to our Principles of Community. Marwa Abdel Latif added that the letter should attack the problem and suggest actions for moving forward focusing on solutions.

Members were in agreement that the letter be shortened and be more specific about what the problem is, and how this incident violated the Principles of Community. A motion to send two letters was made by Leighton Vila. The first letter would be sent to the offices directly involved with homecoming events. Second letter would be sent out to the university community addressing that what happened with the homecoming event was against the Principles of Community. The motion was seconded by Sue Ott Rowlands and approved.

Leighton Vila and Ross Edmonds will work to shorten the letter and edit for typos. A draft of the letter will be available at the next meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for review.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Perry Martin provided an update regarding an invitation to University Relations and Registrar's office to attend a CEOD meeting to discuss the process of including religious holidays on university planning resources. No response had been received yet. Follow up phone calls will be placed.

**ADJOURNED**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30am, with sub-groups convening. The next meeting will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am, GLC Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop  
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity