

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Full Membership Meeting Tuesday 1:30 PM, November 16, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/83318559046>

MEETING MINUTES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo / Monacan People's homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo / Monacan Peoples, and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

We must also recognize that enslaved Black people generated revenue and resources used to establish Virginia Tech and were prohibited from attending until 1953. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to Ut Prosim (that I may serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

Attendance

Gabby McCollum - Hispanic/Latinx Caucus

Stacey Wilkerson- Support/OID

Annabelle Fuselier- Black Caucus / Faculty Staff at Large

Nina Ha- APIDA Caucus

Ellen Banks - Ex Officio / proxy for HR

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke - Ex Officio / VP for Strategic Affairs and Diversity

Jimmy Lowe - Undergraduate Student Senate

Alexandria Rossi-Alvarez - Graduate Student At Large

Tamara Cherry-Clarke - Women's Alliance and Caucus

Vivian Yamoah - Cranwell International Center

Anthony Lee Lovelace - All Caucus and Alliance

Mustafa Yasin Kara - Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Renee' Byrd, Ex Officio / proxy for Equity and Accessibility

John Gray Williams, LGBTQ+ caucus

Amanda Leckner- Undergraduate Student At Large Representative

Gloria Hartley / proxy for ADA and Accessibility
Nicole Akers - Veterans Caucus
Sara Leftwich - Faculty Affairs Representative
Shaila Mehra - Proxy, Academic Dean, Dean Laura Belmonte

Guests

April Myers
Carlos Evia

1. Welcome
 - a. Time: 1:32pm
2. Attendance
 - a. Please post your first name, last name, and body of representation in the chat for attendance
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - a. Minutes approved
4. Old Business
 - a. Prospective Indigenous Research Policy- still on standstill
 - b. Policy 1025- still on standstill
 - c. Still in search for a Vice Chair
 - d. Disaggregation Working Group- Charge is forthcoming
 - i. Annabelle, Stacey, Nina, Kelly
 - ii. Dr. Pratt-Clarke will share a more developed charge within the next few weeks.
5. New Business
 - a. GPSS- resolutions
 - i. Resolution to Broaden Ethical Oversight for Anti-Immigrant Research Projects
 1. Commission on Research and Commission on Faculty Affairs are better fits for this resolution
 2. Suggestion that legal review this from the perspective of faculty affairs, faculty academic freedom, and university policy
 3. Challenges academic freedom, possible legal issues, doesn't align with charge of CEOD, refer to Commission on Faculty Affairs and Commission on Research
 - ii. Resolution to Establish Virginia Tech as a Sanctuary Campus and Expand Protections for Undocumented Students
 1. Legal issues around if we were to become a sanctuary campus, is it even possible to not cooperate with federal agencies?
 2. Legal issues around severing ties with federal entities?
 3. Not within the charge of CEOD, send back and if legal can support this, it can come back for review by full body

- iii. Resolution to Expand Ethical Oversight of Researching and Developing Policing and Surveillance Technologies

- 1. Same feedback as Resolution to Broaden Ethical Oversight

6. Presentations

- a. Dr. Carlos Evia, Academy of Transdisciplinary Studies

- i. Partnerships
 - ii. Experiential Learning
 - iii. Focus Groups
 - iv. Questions

- 1. How does one get involved? More information is coming
 - 2. How does this connect with VT Beyond Boundaries and Destination Areas? Part of each area
 - 3. How can CEOD be a partner? May come back to present at a later time

7. Announcements

- a. No announcements

8. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned 2:05pm