

Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

Full Membership Meeting 1:30 PM, Dec 1st, 2020

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the Tutelo/Monacan people, who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live, and recognize their continuing connection to the land, water, and air that Virginia Tech consumes. We pay respect to the Tutelo/Monacan Nations, and to their elders past, present, and emerging.

We also acknowledge that Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus was previously the site of the Smithfield Plantation. At any point from 1774 to 1865, the Preston family enslaved 40 to 100 African men, women, and children on this land. We pay respect to those souls and acknowledge that Virginia Tech is undeniably tied to this legacy.

We also acknowledge that Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus was previously the site of the Solitude Estate which enslaved at least 30 African men, women and children on this land. We acknowledge the contributions of the Fraction's and other enslaved persons in the creation and emergence of Virginia Tech as a major land-grant university, and in accordance with the university's efforts to transform an historic location into a site for the interpretation of the African-American experience on campus and the region.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by chair, Christa Miller. An update that the working group on usage of diversity acknowledgements that is trying to formalize how to use these acknowledgements. As a spotlight on diversity allyship, Christa Miller also shared the recent recording of VT Unfinished Conversations: White Men as Allies.

The opening of the nominations for the Principles of Community Awards was announced. This was followed by the first reading of CEOD membership resolution 2020-21A. The meeting concluded with a brief announcement of resolutions either passed or up for discussion in university council.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Acknowledgements - update from Stacey
 - b. Ally Spotlight - VT Unfinished Conversation
 - i. <https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/Initiatives/DiversityEducationandPrograms/podcasts/ucor/ucor-oct-2-2020.html>
2. Discussion
 - a. Principles of Community Award - Christa/Stacey
 - i. OID and CEOD division of Responsibilities
 - b. CEOD membership resolution 2020-21A
3. Presentations:
 - a. postponed
4. Updates from University Council
 - a. New mechanical engineering majors passed
 - b. Climate action proposal passed
 - c. Last call promotion and tenure updates