

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, APRIL 1st, 2013
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Dannette Gomez-Beane, Aaron Bond, Sam Cook, Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Amy Hogan, Jermaine Holmes, Marwa Abdel Latif, William Lewis, Lesley Moyo, Susan Rosebrough, Sue Ott Rowlands, Guy Sims, Yannis Stivachtis, Mary Ellen Verdu, Leighton Vila

ABSENT: Chris Atkins, Rick Barrow, Tom Brown (with notice), Catherine Cotrupi (with notice), Hal Irvin (with notice), Mark Managuio (with notice), Corinne Noirot, Jacqueline Nottingham, Bill Ortega (with notice), Wornie Reed (with notice), Laura Rugless (with notice), Emily Satterwhite, Sherri Simmons, Cris Thompson, Jody Thompson (with notice), Alasia Washington

GUESTS: Shaimaa Abdallah, Marcie Bishop, Perry Martin, Karisa Moore, Pamela Vickers,

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chair Yannis Stivachtis.

II. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE AND POSTING OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes for March 18th, 2013 were approved.

III. UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Perry Martin provided dates on upcoming Common Grounds dialogue events in April.

Perry provided an update regarding the Diversity Strategic Plan. The focus groups will be reconvening in April to discuss the plan. A final draft will be sent to the President and Provost by the end of April. Comments regarding the plan should be sent this week to diversity@vt.edu.

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Collegiate Square office, will be relocating to the new North End Center building next week.

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Perry Martin announced that a campus notice will go out on April 2nd, regarding the at-large positions. The deadline for the applications will be April 15th. CEOD members will then review the applications.

V. CISO PRESENTATION AND Q&A

Marwa Abdel Latif presented to CEOD members a power point regarding Council of International Student Organizations (CISO). CISO is an umbrella organization representing all international student organizations at Virginia Tech. Together with the Cranwell International Center, CISO officers try to make students feel at home in the Blacksburg. Marwa discussed with members CISO'S aims and possible ideas for the future along with difficulties addressed in the CISO survey. Marwa talked about desired changes to be implemented regarding funding avenues, methods to encourage non-members to participate, and rules and policies at Virginia Tech.

CISO officers organize several social and cultural events and collaborate with other student organizations for different programs and events. The Cranwell International Center and CISO will present the International Street Fair, on Saturday April 6th, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. College Avenue, Blacksburg.

Marwa welcomed questions from CEOD members. Further discussion centered on challenges of developing continuous leadership with in international student organizations and the variety of political perspectives that students bring to these organizations.

VI. GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY (GSA) PRESENTATION AND Q&A

Leighton Vila, GSA Representative at Large, provided a short video "Let's go Hokies" One Big United Hokie Nation. Leighton's presentation titled "Graduate Racial Diversity" included charts and percentages identifying all student racial groups. The presentation included an overview of structures that build community with diverse graduate student population as well gaps or barriers that exist for students from diverse backgrounds.

Leighton introduced GSA President, Shaimaa Abdallah. Shaimaa commented on several areas, including cultural/language challenges for international graduate students. Questions from members were welcomed and discussion included conversation about cultural differences with respect to the honor code as well as challenges of connecting domestic students with international students in the academic and social environment.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. The next meeting will be held on April 15th, 2013, in GLC Room B. There will be a discussion on the working groups.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity