

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Judy Alford, Suzanne Baker, Aaron Bond, Nicholas Chartrain, Larry Cox, Mary Beth Dunkenberger, Raifu Durodoye, Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Lance Franklin, Bradley Klein, Gilda Machin-Scarpaci, Jennifer Nardine, Anita Puckett, Tricia Smith for (Patty Perillo), David Travis Jr., Daron Williams, Paul Winistorfer

ABSENT: Alex Apollonio, Gloria Bensen, Tom Brown, Sam Cook, Melissa Elliott (with notice), Noha Elsherbiny, Jack Finney, Paul Heilker, Hal Irvin, Olivia Javornik (with notice), Bradley Klein (with notice), Mikayla Meyer, Gilda Machin-Scarpaci, Corinne Noiro, Bill Ortega, Lester Schonberger, Amy Tanner, Pamela Vickers, Pamela White, Anne Zajac

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Dr. Ellen Plummer, Marcy Schnitzer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Aaron Bond called together the final meeting of the 2015 spring semester at 10:30 a.m.

Aaron welcomed new chair Jennifer Nardine and vice-chair Mary Beth Dunkenberger. Jennifer proceeded with the meeting agenda.

CONFIRMATION OF THE ELECTRONIC APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes are approved electronically with no response indicating approval.

CONSTITUENT GROUP DISCUSSION

Aaron reminded members of the second reading of Resolution 2014-15A and 2014-15B to University Council at the 3:00 p.m. meeting today.

Mary Beth Dunkenberger commented on the Qualtrics survey/questionnaire that was sent out to current and potential caucus leaders. The purpose of the survey was to help guide CEOD membership considerations and to begin to answer the question that has emerged from the InclusiveVT discussions of “what constitutes a caucus.” Responses received were from the Hispanic/Latino, and LGBT Caucuses that are already well established,

and from the Asian, International, and American Indian groups that are in the formative stages. As a project for next year CEOD will provide guidance as we move forward.

ELLEN PLUMMER – GUEST PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT LEGISLATION

Dr. Ellen Plummer attended several meetings with the Governor's task force in Richmond discussing combating sexual violence on campus. The group has discussed what the state should do to stop and prevent sexual assaults at colleges and universities. The task force serves in an advisory role to the Governor.

In 2015 session, the Virginia General Assembly dealt with several different bills related to campus sexual violence. In the end, three bills emerged and were approved. The bills are now awaiting the Governor's signature or modification. The bills are House Bill 1930 which is identical to Senate Bill 712, House Bill 1785, and Senate Bill 1193. Dr. Plummer described these bills in detail, and their implications for higher education in Virginia.

WORKING GROUPS CHARGE AND AGENDA REPORT

Judy Alford (Faculty/Staff Working Group)

1. CEOD sent out in December 2014 a memo advising people to be mindful of religious difference when scheduling events. This was posted via VT news. Judy is drafting a letter that can be used multiple times through the year as a reminder to be mindful of conflicts when scheduling events.
2. Judy reminded members that her term on CEOD will end this semester and she will need to be replaced as chair of the working group.

Larry Cox (Student Working Group)

1. Larry met with Tom Brown to discuss the feedback that he got from the graduate school regarding services for graduate students. Tom is working on including that feedback in the development of the new DSA portal. The portal should be available by the fall semester.

Mary Beth Dunkenberger (CEOD Charge, Mission, Membership Working Group)

1. The working group met last week to discuss the caucus groups and the diversity annual report. Marcy Schnitzer and Pamela White joined the meeting to help determine content for the diversity report. The caucus group discussion will pick up in the fall semester.
2. A draft letter, requesting that President Sands sanction an equity and diversity annual report, will be sent to the committee between meetings for review and feedback. This letter will be sent to the president upon approval by the CEOD.

WORKING GROUPS/CHAIRS FOR NEXT YEAR

Chair Jennifer Nardine asked the three working groups to consider and let her know who would be chair of their group in the upcoming fall semester. Mary Beth Dunkenberger will remain chair of the working group for CEOD Charge, Mission, and Membership.

FALL AGENDA DEVELOPMENT/WHAT'S NEXT FOR CEOD?

1. Discuss Caucuses
2. Employee Climate Survey
3. Discuss adding Ethnicity to the Principles of Community
4. Invite Deans to CEOD meetings to talk about what they are doing related to initiatives

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. CEOD members will convene in the 2015 fall semester.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity