

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Rick Barrow, Dannette Beane, Aaron Bond, Tom Brown, Catherine Cotrupi, Nicole DaDamio, Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Amy Hogan, Jermaine Holmes, Marwa Abdel Latif, Lesley Moyo, Susan Rosebrough, Sue Ott Rowlands, Emily Satterwhite, Guy Sims, Yannis Stivachtis, Jody Thompson, Diego Troya, Mary Ellen Verdu

ABSENT: Chris Atkins, Kim Beisecker (with notice), Sirisha Iruvanti, Hal Irvin, William Lewis (with notice), Anthony Lovelace, Jacqueline Nottingham, Bill Ortega (with notice), Sherri Simmons, Cris Thompson.

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Samantha Boyd, Perry Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Chair Yannis Stivachtis. Motion to adopt the agenda was approved.

II. UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Perry Martin announced that the Office for Diversity and Inclusion is currently working with several partners on meetings and strategies to realign the Diversity and Strategic plan with the Plan for a New Horizon. The Institute for Policy and Governance will partner with Human Resources and the Office for Diversity and Inclusion to host a Cross Divisional Work Group/kick-off organizational meeting on September 18th. A committee of 45 will meet to discuss the Diversity Strategic Plan in its current state.

Perry also announced that *The Path Forward*, a campus-wide diversity publication will be published in mid-October.

III. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

The 8th Annual Gay in Appalachia event will feature American Foundation for Equal Rights & Broadway Impact's 8, Thursday October 11, 6:30pm – 9:00pm, the Lyric Theatre, downtown Blacksburg. Admission is free – doors open at 6:30pm, the play begins at 7:30pm.

The provost Dr. Mark McNamee will be visiting the commission on December 3rd, 2012.

IV. BLACK CAUCUS PRESENTATION

Jermaine Holmes, vice president for the Black Faculty/Staff Caucus provided a hand out to commission members stating the purpose, goals, and recent efforts conducted by the Black Caucus and how CEOD can support caucus initiatives to assist with the recruitment and retention of black faculty, staff, and students. Jermaine and Jody Thompson, president of the Black Caucus answered questions from commission members and discussion included a conversation on climate perceptions and the need to build a greater sense of community among black graduate students. Discussion also centered on the need for greater connections between caucus groups, encouraging greater constituent participation in caucus efforts, funding needs, and ways that caucus groups can assist with departmental recruitment and search processes.

V. HISPANIC CAUCUS PRESENTATION

Chair, Diego Troya and Secretary, Dannette Gomez Beane presenting for Hispanic and Latino Faculty and Staff Caucus provided a handout to commission members including information about the caucus, membership, officers, meetings, socials, and overall caucus areas of interest. The Hispanic and Latino Faculty Staff Caucus (the Hispanic Caucus) collaborates with the University Administration for the recruitment and retention of Hispanic/Latino faculty, staff, and students. Diego and Dannette welcomed questions from commission members. Follow up discussion centered on ways to reward diversity-related campus service and the need to encourage diversity involvement at the departmental level.

VI. COMPLETING WORKING GROUPS MEMBERSHIP

Members volunteered for the completion of the five proposed working groups. The working groups will report regularly to CEOD. The following individuals that were added to the working groups are listed below:

Group 2 – Lesley Moyo

Group 5 – Jody Thompson, Hal Irvin, Mary Ellen Verdu, Nicole DaDamio

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am. Next meeting will be October 1st, 2012 at the Graduate Life Center, Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity