

**Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity**  
**Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
**Graduate Life Center Room B**

**Present:** William Lewis, Karen Jones, Ellen Plummer, Jim Snyder, Alan Grant, Yannis Stivachtis, Cris Thompson, Jean Brickey, Meghan Kuhn (vice chair), Connie Wilkinson, Sam Riley, Mark Cartwright, Ross Edmonds (chair), Diego Troya, Anna LoMascolo, Lee Lovelace, Craig Brians, Emily Satterwhite, Jody Thompson, France Belanger, Justin Graves

**Absent with Notification:**

**Absent without Notification:** Hal Irvin, Kim Beisecker, Bruce Hayden, Virgilio Centeno, Bradley Klein, Christine Snider, Nathan Lavinka, Aditya Johri, Jon Jaudon, Guy Sims, Terrence Austin, Frank Hernandez, Chaney Mosley, Lubna Chowdhury

**Guest:** Maggie Sloane, Marcie Bishop

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Ross Edmonds. The minutes from the last meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 were discussed. There were no questions or comments. Minutes were motioned and approved.

**Introduction**

Yannis Stivachtis and France Belanger were introduced as the two newest members. Connie Wilkinson was introduced as quest speaker for **(SSD) Services for Students with Disabilities**.

**Guest Speaker**

Connie Wilkinson, director for **(SSD)** handed out brochures about services that are provided for students with disabilities at Virginia Tech. She spoke of the **(SSD) Mission** to assist the University with promoting students academic success, personal growth, and development of life skills. Connie spoke about **(SSD) Goals** to promote greater awareness and understanding of disabilities, and the needs of students with disabilities at Virginia Tech. She also said that to be eligible for disability-related services, students must have a documented disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students with disabilities must self-identify to the **(SSD)** office and provide relevant, comprehensive professional documentation to receive services. Connie spoke about making accommodations for students with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to participate in all university activities. She also spoke about academic coaching, and how their office would work with professor's to assist students however needed. A wide range of assistive technology was available to students with disabilities such as, screen enlargement software, document

scanners, large size print and Braille embossing, keyboards, adjustable workstations, etc. The office for **(SSD)** is now located at the Kent Square Building in Blacksburg. Plans for a new building by 2012 are in process. For more information on **(SSD)** see the link provided [www.ssd.vt.edu](http://www.ssd.vt.edu).

### **Discussion**

Emily Satterwhite spoke on Appalachian Studies, (tracking urban vs. rural and other underserved areas.) Ellen Plummer offered help and suggested a group conversation to discuss tracking trends. Meghan Kuhn discussed updates for Diversity Progress Summit. The event will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm, at the Commonwealth Ballroom.

### **Agenda**

CEOD meeting scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to the Board of Visitors meeting at the Drill Field. The next scheduled meeting will be held **April 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-11:30am**. Location will be Graduate Life Center at Donaldson Brown, Room B.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop  
Office for Diversity and Inclusion

