

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 2011
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
GRADUATE LIFE CENTER ROOM B

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Meghan Weyrens Kuhn (chair), Yannis Stivachtis (vice chair), Julianne Arnold, Rick Barrow, Kim Beisecker, Mark Cartwright, Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Alan Grant, Justin Graves, Karen Jones, Bradley Klein, Shernita Lee, William Lewis, Teresa Lyons, Lesley Moyo, Ellen Plummer, Emily Satterwhite, Sherri Simmons, Guy Sims, Christine Snider, Jim Snyder, Jody Thompson, Diego Troya, Mary Ellen Verdu,

ABSENT: Tom Brown (with notice), Hal Irvin, Lori Anne Kirk, Lee Lovelace (with notice), Cris Thompson

GUESTS: Eirini Asprouda, Marcie Bishop, Samantha Boyd, Laurie Brogdon, Linda Greene, Roxanna Link, Pam Linkous, Reyna Gilbert-Lowry, Perry Martin, Karisa Moore, Caroline Sapyta, Kelly Shannon, Delight Yokley

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Meghan Weyrens Kuhn. The minutes from the last meeting on September 12th, 2011 were approved.

II. Presentation on 2012 MLK Jr. University Celebration

Laurie Brogdon and Linda Greene provided an overview of the upcoming 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. university celebration. Samples of posters and essays from previous Martin Luther King Jr contests were presented in a power point display. Plans for this year's competition poster and essay competition were discussed. The purpose for the competition is to raise awareness about the legacy of Dr. King and is open to schools in Montgomery, Giles, Roanoke City, and Pulaski, with total submissions of 313 in 2011. Laurie asked for help in recruiting judges for the posters and essays and also sought feedback on how faculty and staff involvement can be encouraged in MLK activities. Ellen offered to explore possible connections between the Advancing Diversity Conference and the MLK celebration.

III. Committee on Equal Opportunity in Athletics Annual Report

Pam Linkous, Director of Human Resources presented the 2010-2011 Annual Report for Committee on Equal Opportunity in Athletics. Pam provided discussion on the NCAA requirements and recommendations, and answered questions from several committee members related to reporting on demographic data in athletics. Additionally discussion was held on ways to support a positive climate for LGBTQ athletes. She welcomed feedback and any questions to be sent to her email address, pamel@vt.edu.

IV. Old Business

Perry Martin provided details on the Memorial Service for Ed McPherson, to be held on Sunday, October 9th in the **Multi-Purpose room at Graduate Life Center**. A resolution honoring the work of Ed McPherson was read and approved with final edits to be completed by a sub-group working on the resolution.

Discussion on a holiday recognition practices letter to the university community continued with conversation about gaining input from diverse religious perspectives. Discussion also centered on the impact of holiday displays on campus climate and any policy implications to be considered related to holiday celebrations. Several members were in agreement that this was a topic that needed to be discussed further within the commission considering the commission's previous role in examining the topic. Further discussion will continue at the next commission meeting.

The Labor Day Holiday discussion will be continued to the next scheduled meeting, with more research to be presented to the commission.

V. NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perry Martin presented to the commission the possibility of finding another room for future meetings, with the large amount of members and guests attending. No action was taken towards moving meetings.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, October 10th at 9am-10:30am, location Graduate Life Center, Room B.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity