

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, MARCH 19th, 2012
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, Mary Christian for (Alan Grant), Sharbari Dey for (Mary Ellen Verdu), Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Justin Graves, Hal Irvin, Shernita Lee, William Lewis, Karisa Moore, Leslie Moyo, Sherri Simmons, Guy Sims, Tonya Smith-Jackson, Jody Thompson, Diego Troya

ABSENT: Kim Beisecker, Tom Brown (with notice), Lubna Chowdhury, Karen Jones (with notice), Lori Anne Kirk, Bradley Klein (with notice), Lee Lovelace (with notice), Teresa Lyons, Ellen Plummer (with notice), Emily Satterwhite (with notice), Christine Snider, Cris Thompson, Jim Snyder (with notice)

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Catherine Cotrupi, Perry Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chair Meghan Weyrens Kuhn.

II. GUEST SPEAKER: CATHERINE COTRUPI LGBTQ COORDINATOR

Catherine provided a brief overview on campus LGBTQ issues, and explained each training workshop for individuals interested in learning more about the LGBTQ community. The first session titled Safe Zone Overview, would address topics as, Common LGBTQ Terms, Sexual Orientation vs. Sexual Identity, The Coming out Process, Experiences of LGBTQ Individuals, How You Can Be a Safe Zone Ally. There is a requirement to attend the Safe Zone Overview session prior to signing up for the secondary sessions. Secondary Sessions would include topics as: Transgender 101, New River Valley Resources, Suicide Watch and Prevention. After completing the Safe Zone Overview session and at least one of the secondary training workshops, participants will have the opportunity to join the Safe Zone program and receive a Safe Zone sticker which will designate you as an individual who is committed to providing a more inclusive and accepting environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning communities and their allies. Certified Safe Zones will also have the option to be listed on the Safe Zone Map. A list of dates that link to signup surveys was provided to learn more about the Safe Zone program.

III. SGA-DIVERSITY COMMITTEE UPDATE BY JUSTIN GRAVES

Update scheduled for the next meeting on April 2nd.

IV. DISCUSSION ON 2012 CEOD DIVERSITY SUMMIT

CEOD will host “Virginia Tech Diversity Update” on April 4th at 4pm in Owens Banquet Hall. Meghan Kuhn reminded members to send the announcement to their respective listservs. The update will cover results of a recent assessment of employee perceptions of university climate as well as a report on strategic initiatives and directions related to diversity. Hal Irvin, associate vice president of human resources will share the results of the 2011 campus climate survey of salaried faculty and staff. Dr. William Lewis, vice president for diversity and inclusion will provide an update on strategic diversity initiatives at the university.

V. CEOD NOMINATIONS AND CHAIR ELECT FOR THE 2012-2013 YEAR

Meghan Kuhn discussed the CEOD Chair Elect Nominations for 2012-2013. An announcement was added in the CEOD site at Scholar along with the link, to nominate individuals for the chair elect position. The individual you nominate must have a current membership and must have a seat on the commission through 2014. Please use the most current roster for nominations. You can also nominate yourself. Questions or concerns can be sent to Meghan.

Dr. William Lewis provided an update on the Black Alumni Reunion that was held on March 16th and 17th at Virginia Tech. Dr. Lewis added that the impact this year was much greater, with 150 to 200 people in attendance. It was great to see folks engaging, and that Alumni was really excited about their time here at Virginia Tech.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05am. Next meeting will be April 2nd, at the Graduate Life Center, Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity