

COMMISSION ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 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, Eirini Asprouda, Rick Barrow, Kim Beisecker, Mark Cartwright, Martin Daniel for (Alan Grant), Ross Edmonds, Amer Fayad, Justin Graves, Hal Irvin, Karen Jones, Bradley Klein, William Lewis, Lesley Moyo, Emily Satterwhite, Sheri Simmons, Jim Snyder, Jody Thompson, Diego Troya,

ABSENT: Tom Brown (with notice), Lori Anne Kirk, Shernita Lee, Lee Lovelace (with notice), Ellen Plummer (with notice), Christine Snider, Cris Thompson, Mary Ellen Verdu (with notice)

GUESTS: Marcie Bishop, Dr. Paul Knox, Jonathan Manz, Perry Martin, Caroline Sapyta, Dwight Yokley

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. LONG RANGE PLANNING

Dr. Paul Knox from the Office of Long Range Planning was introduced as guest speaker. Dr. Knox explained that in March 2011, President Steger initiated a Presidential Task Force to develop a “Plan for a New Horizon” for Virginia Tech for 2012-2018. The Task Force has been charged with conducting a full assessment of current strategies and envisioning a “New Horizon” that will enable the university to capitalize on opportunities while continuing to elevate, build upon, and, most importantly, sustain the core values that has made Virginia Tech an exceptional community and institution. While the Task Force received the charge from President Steger, envisioning and realizing the future of the university depends on the involvement, consideration, and thoughtful input of the entire Virginia Tech community. The Task Force will conduct a series of “town hall” meetings and forums to solicit input and guidance from members throughout the university community.

Dr. Knox provided that information and updates on the work of the Task Force and announcements of future events will be posted to the website and the Office of Long Range Planning blog on an ongoing basis.

During the fall semester, the Task Force has been reconfigured into five subcommittees to further explore and develop the Culture of Excellence framework. Two groups will focus on the undergraduate and graduate structure, curricula, and experience. One group will explore opportunities for strategic investment and continued growth in sponsored research specifically addressing how the university can best position itself as a leader and innovator in research and scholarship. Another group will explore the sustainability of our physical, fiscal, and human assets and infrastructure. The final group will explore how the university can

continue to foster and sustain a Culture of Excellence locally, regionally and globally, and develop the creative synergies necessary to distinguish Virginia Tech as a global leader in higher education and research.

Further information regarding Upcoming Meetings and Events, Past Meetings and Events, Timeline of Activities for the development of the Virginia Tech General Plan, How to get involved in the planning, and Questions and Answers can be found by visiting the website, www.longrangeplan.vt.edu.

III. OLD BUSINESS

The Labor Day holiday discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

The Holiday Recognition discussion continued with an update from Kim Beisecker.

Kim and Francesca Galarraga will work along with small groups who are interested, to research the issue further. The groups will work on specific things to later present to the commission. Further discussion will continue.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for September 26th, 2011 and October 10th, 2011 were motioned and approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS-ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Graves announced preparation to utilize a forum to be held on Twitter, as part of the activities for the MLK Celebration, which would begin after winter break. The purpose is to get more students involved and to feel included in this event.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. Next meeting will be November 14th, 2011 at the Graduate Life Center, Room B.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Bishop
Recording Secretary, Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity