

Equity Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
9:00-10:30 a.m., Memorial Union
Student Senate Chambers
Kingston Campus

*"they ask me to remember
but they want me to remember
their memories
and I keep on remembering mine"----Lucille Clifton*

Attendance: Diane Kern (co-chair), Robert Samuels (co-chair), Michelle Fontes-Barros, Jackie Sparks, Amy Olson, Carol L. Pegg, Liliana Costa, Jody Lisberger, Naomi Thompson, Trish Morokoff, Sarah Couch, Annemarie Vaccaro, Carolyn Sovet, Nancy H. Kelley, Debbie Suggs, Ted Shear, Melvin Wade, Betsy Cooper, Delores Walters, Pamela Rohland, Tamara Bolotow, Annie M. Kosar, David Hayes, Lynne Derbyshire, and Faye Boudreaux-Bartels.

Invited Guest: Bruce Hamilton

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Confidentiality Policy was read to the council members and affirmed.

3. The minutes of October 16, 2014 meeting were approved.

4. Old Business

- Student Senate follow-up: There was a discussion about the itemized list provided by Bruce Hamilton. An itemized budget list will be requested from Bruce. The new Finance Chair will be invited to the Council. Also a sheet including the dates of finance process meetings will be requested.
- Bruce Hamilton joined the meeting upon request from council members. He will prepare an itemized list to be sent out to council members.
- Q: What is the new annual financing timeline?
A: This evening the new chair will be elected and the timeline will be determined.
- Q: Is the full budget and contingency budget policy over?
A: All groups are recognized as eligible for funding or not. The Senate has got rid of all those categories.
- Q: Is there any inequity in terms of how the budget is disseminated? Are you the one solely responsible for how money is shared among groups?
A: No. 50 students are doing a very good job with a very complicated process. I am not the only responsible person. Bruce stated he does not make decisions on which organizations receive funding.

- Q: Do you think Student Senate will benefit from multicultural/equity training?

A: They have had SafeZone trainings for diversity and other leadership training.

- Comment: Inclusion Project is one option for further training, which was suggested. There can be unconscious bias. We offered it to the College of Continuing Education for a full day with many options. You can think about it. The concern is not whether they got money or not. The concern is the transparency, equitable process and procedures. The procedures keep changing.

- Q: Can groups apply in advance for the same thing? What about the groups which organize different things every year?

A: It will be during the academic year. If they put the numbers together they can be approved in March.

- Q: The students and we as advisers are confused. Transparency is the central issue here. Language is also important. Why do the rules change? How and why is that changing? We get used to one set of rules and then it changes again.

A: We change because we hear that there is need for change. The current funding system is the best till now.

- Q: Has there been more multicultural student groups denied money than non-multicultural?

A: The current process allows groups to get what they list.

- Q: In the past, because of institutionalized problems, multicultural groups were disadvantaged. Whenever there is a change, there should be an explanation of why there has been change. Language changes but does the application change? Sometimes only language changes, application does not.

A: Significant amount of money consistently goes to multicultural groups.

- Q: Did arming the police change the funding groups receive? Is security costing more money for student organizations?

A: There is no correlation between them. Public safety determines which group activities need paid security. All money comes separately. The total is the annual money but they come separately. Each group receives money from each category.

It was my decision to protect students, to show college ids with additional ids. On October Fest, we had one minor issue. The students working on the organization did a great job. We have monthly meetings people must be present. There are also online informing processes. Finance training is offered to groups. Student Event Advising SEA group works with other groups.

5. New Business

- Goal-setting process: A revised version of goals sheet was handed out. We will talk about it in December meeting.
- Website University Manual changes follow up--tabled
- Times to meet with Equity Council Co-Chairs--tabled

6. Announcements

- **November 5, 2014**, 5:00pm-6:00pm at the Memorial Union Atrium I--Education Forum panel discussion on the Common Core State Standards, co-sponsored by Kappa Delta Pi and the School of Education.
- **November 6, 2014**, 7pm at the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, 6 Fraternity Circle--Kathy Hershfield, National Vice President of Hadassah will lead a fun and interactive discussion about young women in Zionism and volunteerism, sponsored by URI Hillel--RSVP Hannah_kaplan@my.uri.edu

Brief Description: Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that inspires a passion for and commitment to its partnership with the land and people of Israel. Kathy Hershfield, National Vice President will be here to discuss Hadassah's important work in the areas of medical research, education, advocacy and Jewish continuity.

- **November 12, 2014**, 5:00pm at Peace Dale Public Library--RIDE Public Hearing on changes to policies on administering state assessments in P-12 schools
- **November 17-21, 2014**, Trans* Awareness Week

Brief Description: A week-long celebration of trans* and gender related issues relevant to students, faculty, and staff. There will be a highlighted speaker or event and recognition of the National Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), which is at the end of November each year. We will also have a vigil to commemorate the Trans* Day of Remembrance.

- **November 20, 2014**, 4:00-6:00pm at the Norman M. Fain Hillel Center, 6 Fraternity Circle--Professor Joy Ladin will provide a keynote address and interactive presentation during Trans* Awareness Week, co-sponsored by URI LGBTQ Center and URI Hillel.

Brief Description: Professor Joy Ladin's presentation will be followed by a light dinner and a question and answer session. The program will conclude with a short vigil in honor of Trans*Day of Remembrance.

Professor Joy Ladin's return to Yeshiva University as a woman after receiving tenure as a man made her the first openly transgender employee of an Orthodox Jewish institution. In her memoir of gender transition, "Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders" Joy Ladin takes readers inside her transition as she changed genders and, in the process, created a new self. With unsparing honesty and surprising humor, Ladin wrestles with both the practical problems of gender transition and the larger moral, spiritual, and philosophical questions that arise.

The program is free and open to the public but RSVPs are requested and may be made by email to Amy Olson at Hillel, amyolson@mail.uri.edu or to Annie Kosar at the LGBTQ Center, anniem@mail.uri.edu.

- Congrats to Alycia Mosley Austin for her baby girl.

- Debb Suggs: We requested a commission for veterans. Our requests were denied. We will have a presentation to the president. Other universities do have a designated place. URI does not have an office or group of people dedicated for them. Veterans represent a diverse student group. They are also a protected group. There are over 300 veteran students on Kingston campus. The request for space was denied, the spaces best for veterans have to go through a complicated process. The space in the union cannot be assigned now. Please support the meeting, which is on November 20, at 11 o'clock, Memorial Student atrium.
- Equity Council will write a letter to show their support for a commission for veterans on URI Kingston campus.