

Equity Council Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
1:30pm-3:00pm, Thomson Board Room (Ballentine Hall, 3rd floor)

“Sometimes I feel discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can they deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It's beyond me.”
~Zora Neale Hurston

Attendance:

Bob Samuels	Faye Boudreaux-Bartels	Jackie Sparks
Diane Kern	Melvin Wade	Debbie Suggs
John Sears	Robert Vincent	Cody Anderson
Annie Russell	Amy Olson	Kyle Kusz
Carol Pegg	Alex Carlson	Gerald Williams
Sarah Couch	Victoria Kern	
Tamara Bolotow	Steve Baker	
Liliana Costa	Mary Cloud	

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Affirmation of Confidentiality Policy**

3. **Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2016 meeting**

Approved

4. **Updates**

a. Meeting of Council and Commissions Co-Chairs with CDO

- On April 14th, the Equity Council Co-Chairs met with Naomi Thompson, the CDO, and the Co-Chairs of the Presidential Commissions (Women, Disabilities, and LGBTQ)

5. **Nominations and Election of Co-Chairs to begin two-year term June 2016**

Nominations for co-chairs were shared. Two people accepted the nominations: Faye Boudreaux-Bartels (faculty member for a 2-year term) and Annie Russell (staff member for a one-year term).

Equity Council voted for the **approval for a 1-year term for the staff co-chair position in 2016-2017. Equity Council unanimously voted for Faye Boudreaux-Bartels and Annie Russell as new co-chairs effective May 31, 2016. Annie's term will be May 31, 2016-May 31, 2017; Faye's term will be May 31, 2016-May 31, 2018.** Thanks to Annie and Faye for accepting this important leadership position!

6. **Other business**

- Update on American Indian, Native American, Indigenous People Advisory Council. Goal to become a Presidential commission. We are looking for the Equity Council for support and will have a proposal for this Council in the near future.
- Concerns were reported regarding the evaluation process of the Women's Center. Transparency is one of the Equity Council's top issues.
- Diane reported key agenda items from the recent Academic Affairs Diversity Task Force meeting.

7. **Announcements**

- Amy Olson updated the Council on an exciting collaboration among URI colleagues and Trinity Repertory Theatre. The event will be held in the fall. More information forthcoming.
- Melvin Wade shared that the Diversity Week keynote speaker will be Professor Kimberly Crenshaw in coordination with the Honors Colloquium on September 27th.
- Annie Russell reported that the Gender and Sexuality Center has had the request to make sure we have a Gender and Sexuality services up in the CCE campus. We also just finished hanging up the archival project that we've been working on for the past 2 years. We are also going to launch a departmental or college safe zone training soon, which will certify your whole department or college.
- Mary Cloud shared that the College of Nursing is hosting Dr. Alexander-Scott as part of Nursing Diversity Day on September 28th.

Next meetings:

Monday, 5/9/16, 3:00pm-4:30pm, [Pharmacy Room 130](#)

Confidentiality policy

No one will speak to the media concerning issues discussed at an Equity Council meeting unless agreed upon at the meeting. All discussion at Equity Council meetings will be confidential unless otherwise designated. Minutes will be made public after approval.