

MINUTES

Equity Council Meeting

Friday, November 16, 2012

9:00-10:30 a.m

Student Senate Chambers, Memorial Union

Attendance: Michelle Fontes-Barros, co-chair, Lynne Derbyshire, co-chair, Annie Kosar, Delores Walters, Mailee Kue, Melvin Wade, Brandon Brown, Amy Olson, Linda Acciaro, Ann Morrissey, Roxanne Gomes, Karol Leuzarder, David Hayes, Liliana Costa, Annie Russell, Kyle Kusz, Abu Bakr, Garry Bozylinsky, Naomi Thompson, Gerald Williams, Katrina Dorsey, Gerard Holder, and Faye Boudreaux-Bartels

1. Introductions
2. The September 28, 2012 and November 1, 2012 minutes were approved.
3. Announcements
 - a. Jeff Plouffe has been invited and will be at next Equity Council meeting.
 - b. Michelle, Lynne and Naomi have met with Marketing and Communications regarding having more diversity on the home page and will be meeting again on December 4th. They provided a recap of the meeting and expressed that the home page looks great.
 - c. Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil will be held on November 20th.
 - d. MLK Week will be held February 4-8. Events happening that week are as follows: Unity Luncheon held on February 6 and the MLK Peacemaker's Award will be given out at that luncheon. On February 7, Stand Up for Peace Comedy Show @ 7:30 p.m. On February 8 - Ahvi Shafer Dinner and on February 9, students from Providence Public Schools will be doing A Day of Service.
 - e. HIV Testing being held on December 5th. Aids Project RI will be at the LGBTQ Center.
4. Co-chair Report Out
 - a. Michelle Fontes-Barros has been in touch with the Student Senate President and is trying to get the MCC Student Affairs chair, Chris Cicero, to be a possibility to add as student representation on the Equity Council.

5. Update from Naomi Thompson, CDO

and

- a. Naomi gave an update from the Office of Community, Equity

Diversity. She talked about what the role is of the CDO with the Equity Council. She indicated that this should be an ongoing conversation of what expectations are. Other issues she talked about were as follows:

1. Serving as a liaison to Pres/VP team bringing any concerns
2. Institutional knowledge - bring fresh perspective
3. Move agenda forward - commitment to diversity - working with larger community to talk about difference. Demonstrate respect/inclusiveness
4. Seize common occasions to make them great.

- b. There was discussion regarding whether there is a way to publicize the CDO's presence on campus. There was a concern that we are not utilizing outlets to our best effort in terms of

letting

people know about the Equity Council and Naomi. It was suggested that maybe we should put something in the 5 Cent Cigar to market ourselves or we should have a welcoming reception for the new CDO. We need to send a letter to the President.

- c. Naomi reported to the Council that she will be attending the Media Breakfast to be held on November 28th. The 5 Cent Cigar will be in attendance as well as other media outlets. Other ways to publicize would be to use social media, write a blog or do a video clip on what her priorities are. Dana Neugent would be able to help with the video clip. Naomi also announced that the Women of Color Network and the CED

office

will be having a Meet & Greet for Faculty, Staff & Alumni on November 28 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Alumni Center.

6. Update from Melvin Wade - MCC

1. MCC Newsletter - Highlights of Diversity Week
2. Peer Mentoring & College Success course - Melvin reported he is working with Mailee & Delores on a course entitled " Achieving Student Success through Excellence". They are looking for mentors. They are also engaging in a conversation w/TD re-Roger Williams University. It was suggested to include Melissa Boyd-Colvin and Melissa Camba in the conversation. There was a concern about silos of communication on this campus.

7. Old Business

- a. Co-chair elect update - An update was given on the co-chair elect. Michelle indicated that they would do some outreach through the diversity committee and they would approach the Council of Deans to get names.
- b. Review of meeting minutes - Lynne is reviewing the meeting minutes and will prepare a document of goals for the Equity Council. She will hopefully have it by the end of the semester.

8. New Business

- a. Pressing issues - Michelle encouraged the Equity Council that if there are any issues that are unfair or unjust to please contact her or Lynne.
- b. College/division reports - Michelle and Lynne reported that they would have the college/division diversity committees report at Equity Council meetings in the Spring semester. Naomi will give a reminder to make sure each college/division have a diversity committee.
- c. Meeting minutes - Annie Russell will help Eileen with minutes. We will ask for volunteers at the beginning of meetings if Annie is not here at the meeting.
- d. Compact for Faculty/Diversity Conference - Delores Walters reported on the conference. She reported that there were 1200 scholars of color at this conference. She reported that the purpose of the conference was to increase faculty diversity on campus and to develop long-term relationships with Universities. Issues to think about are how can we mentor the students that are already here at URI. She will be talking to the Council of Deans and the Academic Affairs Diversity Committee about this conference and follow up will be important.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.