

URI EQUITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2009

Attendance: Trish Morokoff (co-chair), Gerald Williams (co-chair), Muni Adebimpe, Laura Beauvais, Lynne Derbyshire, Gail Faris, Frank Forleo, Tyrene Jones, Christina Knoll, Kyle Kusz, Karol Leuzarder, Jody Lisberger, Lisa Morel, Ann Morrissey, Muni Odebimpe, Amy Olson, Radhika Pasupuleti, Pamela Rohland, Jerry Schaffran, Barb Silver, Douglas Tondreau, Melvin Wade, Bryana White, Winston Wilson, Andrew Winters

I. Minutes of the October 23rd meeting were approved.

II. Announcements

- A.** The GLBT Center will hold a Transgender Remembrance Vigil November 19th at 6:00 pm
- B.** The Native American Student Organization (NASO) will hold its 2nd annual Night of Tradition November 19th at 7:00 pm in the Multicultural Center.
- C.** Clair Ginger will report on her study of Diversity Week at URI on December 10 in the Multicultural Center

III. Follow up discussion on the Stop the Hate at URI silent protest

Stop the Hate at URI silent protest was held November 18th at noon on the quad. The event was initiated and organized by Christina Knoll. Frank Forleo informed us that it was the largest gathering for peace on the Quad since 1970. It was an extremely successful protest attended by approximately 1,000 people. Christina reported that she had been misquoted in the Good 5 cent Cigar in an interview after the event. Several members of the Equity Council including Lynne, Christina, and Tyrene agreed to follow up on this.

IV. Follow up from meeting with President Dooley

There was discussion of the structural relationship of the Equity Council and President Dooley. A question was raised as to whether the Equity Council would have membership on the new Planning and Budget Committee. Frank identified 3 issues of importance: access, public education, and affordability; environment; and curricular issues. Melvin added the role of faculty hiring. Laura noted the work that is now being undertaken by the Diversity Task Force of the Division of Academic Affairs related to curriculum. Gerald said that we also need to

address the Diversity Committees. It was agreed that at our meeting with the President on November 13th there were unresolved issues as to the structure for diversity issues on campus and that we had agreed that we should outline the views of the Equity Council in a letter to President Dooley. Trish and Gerald agreed to write the letter but requested input from the Council as to issues to include in the letter. The following issues were identified:

- Release time for staff to attend meetings
- An official endorsement of the Equity Council
- The half-time staff person the President had indicated would be assigned to the Equity council
- Consultation with the Equity Council on diversity issues (as worked well when we were asked for input on the email the President sent out concerning the Stop the Hate silent protest)
- CDO
- Diversity Committees and the need to have such in 2 divisions that do not currently
- Attendance at meetings of the VP's
- A reception at the University Club to endorse the Equity Council

V. Confidentiality. It was agreed that there should be the right to confidentiality at Equity Council meetings. There would be a discussion of confidentiality at the beginning of each meeting.

V. Student subcommittee. Frank will email students who wish to be members of a proposed student subcommittee of the Equity Council. A motion was made and seconded to adopt a Student Committee as a subcommittee of the Equity Council. The motion was unanimously adopted.

VI. Membership in the Equity Council. It was agreed that all current members of the Equity Council will be recommended for another appointment to the Council. We will also invite new members and add them to the listserv, but reserve formal appointment until next October if it is agreed upon at that time. The individuals we plan to reach out to are:

Annemarie Vaccaro

Deb Cohen

Amy Olson

Lisa Morel

VII. Diversity Committees

We wish to contact Peter Alfonso, VP for Research and Economic Development to either invite him to attend our meeting or discuss with him forming a diversity committee in his Division. This would also be the case for other VP Robert Beagle of the Division of University Advancement who also does not have a Diversity Committee. It would also be helpful to meet again with Provost DeHayes.

The meeting was adjourned.
Next meeting: ??