

# URI EQUITY COUNCIL

## MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2009

Student Senate Chambers, Memorial Union

Attendance: Trish Morokoff (co-chair), Gerald Williams (co-chair), Muni Adebimpe, Major Stephen Baker, Laura Beauvais, Dania Branford-Calvo, Kaly Champlain, Deb Cohen, Lynne Derbyshire, Lt. Mike Donohue, Gail Faris, Corey Fernandez, Michelle Fontes-Barros, Frank Forleo, Ed Givens, Roxanne Gomes, Kyle Kusz, Jody Lisberger, Lisa Abreu Morel, Amy Olson, Salman Parvez, Radhika Pasupuleti, Jason Pina, Pamela Rohland, Jerry Schaffran, Carolyn Sovet, Sierra Stanton, Douglas Tondreau, Melvin Wade, Bryana White, Chip Yensan

I. Minutes of the November 19th meeting were approved.

II. Announcements

- a. Meeting with Amy Albert of the DOJ and stakeholders was held December 7
- b. Student Senate Black Inventor's Exhibit will take place February 16, 2010

III. Confidentiality at meetings

The following policy was agreed to:

- a. No one will speak to the media concerning issues discussed at an Equity Council meeting unless agreed upon at the meeting.
- b. Individuals will state if they want something kept confidential
- c. If something is stated to be confidential then participants will agree to do so.

IV. Access to restricted majors—Kyle Kusz

It was noted that some departments have adopted more restricted rules for majors. The issue was previously addressed by a Joint Strategic Planning Committee and others. This important issue was referred to the Access and Public Education subcommittee.

V. President's letter. There was a discussion as to whether it would be preferable to have regular meetings with the President's team or only as diversity consultation is needed. Discussion concerning the VP for Diversity ensued. It was recommended that research be conducted to develop a position statement on the VP for Diversity. It was agreed to go forward

with the letter to President Dooley recommending meetings with the President's team consistent with the language in the University Manual.

#### VI. Hate crimes—follow up to DOJ meeting of December 7

a. Major Stephen Baker indicated that the Equity Council should be the recipient of information on hate crimes. He distributed a draft URI Police Department protocol on hate crimes. It was requested that an electronic version be distributed for comment.

b. There was a discussion of harassment committees on campus. Lynne Derbyshire summarized the committees as outlined in the University manual, indicating that they are not currently staffed. She indicated that the persons on the Harassment committee would serve as an ombudsperson and be trained in informal mediation and avenues of redress. When there was a previous attempt to staff the committee, potential appointees were concerned about liability issues.

c. Bias response team protocol—Jason Pena. The Student Affairs subcommittee exploring this is reviewing models across the country. They will submit a policy and procedure statement on January 13<sup>th</sup> to the Student Affairs Diversity Committee and then will submit to the Equity Council.

d. Student Affairs subcommittee on prevention of hate crimes—Pamela Rohland.

e. Proposals:

Trish will develop an organizational structure for all groups working on hate crime issues.

Michelle Fontes-Barros will work with the Access and Public Education subcommittee to develop a structure for harassment committees.

#### VII. Subcommittee Reports

a. Student subcommittee. Muni will submit a proposal for a student conference for Equity Council review. Douglas requested that there be law enforcement at the leadership conference. Frank Forleo noted that there had been an outstanding meeting with the Provost the previous night.

b. Diversity committee: Melvin Wade—not meetings

c. Access and Public Education: Frank Forleo—no meetings