

Minutes of Meeting  
Equity Council Meeting  
Thursday, March 17, 2011  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
Thomson Board Room, Ballentine Hall

**Attendance:** Trish Morokoff, co-chair, Gerald Williams, co-chair, Kathryn Friedman, Tammy Vargas Warner, Marcia Morreira, Abu Bakr, Amy Olson, David Oh, Annemarie Vaccaro, Marc Hardge, Roxanne Gomes, Kyle Kusz, David Coates, Frank Forleo, Gail Faris, Chip Yensan, Bob Dilworth, Stephen Baker, Pamela Rohland, Liliana Costa, Joseph Santiago, Riley Davis, Michelle Fontes-Barros, Karol Leuzarder, Eileen Orabone, Laura Beauvais, Lynne Derbyshire, Brandford Davis and Christina Knoll.

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Minutes of the February 24, 2011 and March 10, 2011 were approved.
- 3) Announcements
  - a) The Talent Development Prep Program will be held on March 26, 2011.
  - b) The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Awards Banquet will be held on April 12, 2011; Paul Hastings will receive a lifetime achievement award.
  - c) GLBTIQQ Symposium will be held from April 4-9, 2011.
  - d) Assoc. VP Kathryn Friedman announced that she has agreed to stay on at URI through the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. She proposed that the search for the permanent position begin in Fall 2011.
  - e) Christina Knoll reported that there will be a March for Equality and Inclusive Community to be held on April 13, 2011 at 12:00 noon.
- 4) Confidentiality policy  
Trish reviewed the policy for confidentiality at meetings.
  - 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.

**New Business:** A change in order of the agenda was approved.

- 5) Equity Council Leadership
  - a) Equity Council co-chairs reviewed the current status of Equity Council leadership. At our October 2009 meeting it had been agreed that each co-chair would serve a 2 year term. At this time Gerald Williams was elected co-chair and it was agreed that Lynne Derbyshire would replace co-chair

- Trish Morokoff at the end of her term. We agreed to strive for diversity across the co-chairs. This plan provided for staggered co-chair terms.
- b) Due to the fact that we are in a time of transition, it was proposed that the terms of the current co-chairs be extended. Under this plan, the two co-chairs would both be replaced at the same time.
  - c) It was agreed that Trish and Gerald will write a description of the co-chair position.
  - d) The importance of diversity across the co-chairs was affirmed.
  - e) The need for Equity Council leaders to be allowed time to perform the duties of the position was discussed. As part of this discussion, it was noted that we need to find a way to get release time for Council 94 and ACT members to attend meetings. This should also be considered as part of the faculty's negotiations of their contracts.
  - f) A motion was made and seconded that the current co-chairs continue in their roles until a permanent CDO is in place or until the end of the next academic year, whichever happens first. The motion was unanimously approved.
  - g) The need for a leadership team was asserted including the current co-chairs, co-chairs elect, and past co-chairs. It was reaffirmed that Lynne Derbyshire is currently in the position of co-chair elect and that there is a need to elect the second co-chair to fill in the leadership team. It was agreed that nominations be sought for this role. It was further agreed that nominations be discussed at the next meeting and that a co-chair vote be taken at the following meeting.

## **Old Business**

- 6) Student Issues
  - a) David Coates, Student Senate president, gave a presentation on the Student Senate finances and how they are distributed. He indicated that the total budget for the student senate was \$1.3M. It was agreed to continue discussion of this issue at the next Equity Council meeting.
  - b) Brandford Davis will make his report on the Student Senate Cultural Affairs Committee at a future meeting.
  - c) I Am U-URI-Unity in Difference: Christina Knoll reported on leadership issues within this student organization. She indicated that she would be graduating in May and that she would like to stay involved, but that there is a need to involve additional new students.
  
- 7) A motion was made and seconded that the Equity Council supports the March for Equality and Inclusive Community. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.