

Meeting Minutes

Equity Council Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2011

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Thomson Board Room, Ballentine Hall

Attendance: Trish Morokoff, co-chair, Gerald Williams, co-chair, Kathryn Friedman, Roxanne Gomes, Lynne Derbyshire, Michelle Fontes-Barros, Joe Santiago, Chip Yensan, Gail Faris, Alycia Mosley Austin, Liliana Costa, Tammy Vargas Warner, Earl Smith, III, Karol Leuzarder, Frank Forleo, Brandford Davis, David Coates, Saiphin Inthisone, Brittany Ferreira, Bryana White, Christina Knoll, Annemarie Vaccaro, Jody Lisberger, Ann Morrissey, Stephen Baker, Marcia Morreira, Kyle Kusz, Barbara Silver, Pamela Rohland, Marc Hardge, Amy Olson, Ed Givens, Eileen Orabone and Melvin Wade.

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Minutes of the March 17, 2011 meeting were approved.
- 3) Announcements
 - a) Equity Council members who received URI Diversity Awards were recognized. They were Bryana White for Graduate Student Excellence; Amy Olson for Staff Excellence; Jody Lisberger for Faculty Excellence; Brandford Davis for Undergraduate Student Excellence; and Gay Straight Alliance for Changing the Culture. Also recognized was Michelle Fontes-Barros for P.I.N.K. Women's award for Unsung Heroines and Andrew Winters and Joe Santiago for their work with the GLBT Center.
 - b) The 2nd Annual NASO/URI Spring Pow Wow will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2011.
 - c) The Holocaust Memorial Commemoration will be held the week of April 25th. The field of flags memorial display will be planted on April 27th.
 - d) The Psychology 50th Anniversary Celebration Spring 2011 Colloquium Series will feature a talk by Dr. Ritch C. Savin-Williams on May 2 at 3:15 in Chafee 277.
 - e) The APAW Woman of the Year reception will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 honoring Trish Morokoff as "Woman of the Year".
 - f) The URI Women's LGBTQ Group will be creating a "It Gets Better" video during the weeks of May 2 and May 9.
 - g) The Good 5-Cent Cigar will be invited to do an article on the Equity Council. Jody will look into this for us.

- 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

- 5) Nominations for Stephen Myles Social Justice Scholarship
Lynne Derbyshire gave a brief description of this scholarship. This is the first year that the scholarship funds will be able to make an award. She is seeking nominations—the student should be a Rhode Island resident with financial need who is doing work in the area of social justice.
- 6) Discussion of nominations for Equity Council co-chair
- a) Nominations were sought for Co-chair-elect of the Equity Council. The Co-chair elect will become co-chair at the end of Gerald Williams' term. Nominations were requested and the following individuals were nominated for the position:
 1. Michelle Fontes-Barros
 2. Karol Leuzarder
 3. Deb Cohen
 4. Alycia Mosley Austin
 5. Gail Faris
 - b) It was agreed that the candidates would meet with Kathryn, Trish and Gerald to discuss the duties of the position. Trish and Gerald will prepare a description of the duties for these meetings.
 - c) The need for Equity Council leaders to be allowed release time to perform the duties of the position was discussed. Kathryn Friedman indicated that she would put this item on the next VP meeting agenda to ask for support from the VPs. Letters of appointment would have their Vice President or supervisor cc'd. It was decided that letters of appointment should go out in May.
- 7) Structure for reporting from diversity groups at Equity Council meetings
- Beginning with this meeting various constituent members of the Equity Council will make reports. There was discussion as to how to sequence reporting of the different subcommittees and units. The LGBTIQQ subcommittee report is on the agenda for today's Equity Council meeting and it was decided that reports by Academic Affairs and the PCOSW will be given at the next meeting.

- 8) Report from the Associate VP for Diversity, Community and Equity
 - a) Kathryn reported that the position will be a Vice President and that she is working on a proposed structure for the VP's office. She anticipates two support positions for the VP: an Associate VP and a recruitment and retention administrator.
 - b) She envisions several councils/commissions including PCOSW; Faculty, Staff, and Students of Color; and LGBTIQQ. She would like all councils to be established by the end of May. There was discussion that a Native American Presidential Advisory Council be established.
 - c) Kathryn is working on letters of appointment for Equity Council members and anticipates they will be out during the month of May.
 - d) A motion was made to make the LGBTIQQ subcommittee a Council. The motion was tabled to be taken up at the next meeting.

- 9) Report of the LGBTIQQ Subcommittee
 - a) Subcommittee co-chair Ann Morrissey handed out the final version of the LGBTIQQ Subcommittee report. She said that the committee was divided into 3 subgroups.
 - b) There were minor changes requested to the report. Next steps were discussed. Kathryn stated that the report would be brought to the VP meeting for endorsement. It was also suggested that we could ask the President to come to an Equity Council meeting to respond to the recommendations.
 - c) After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations of the report. The motion passed with one abstention. It was agreed that if anyone had minor changes or comments to the report to send them to Ann or Trish.

- 10) Student Senate Budget Presentation Continuation

David Coates continued his presentation on how the Student Senate allocates funding to student organizations. He reported that the Student Senate adopted a more conservative budgeting procedure for FY11-12. Thirteen multicultural organizations are eligible for funding. Council members requested that the presentation be continued at a subsequent meeting and requested information on base budgeting for every student organization and contingency budgets that each organization received.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.