

Meeting Minutes

Equity Council

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Green Hall President's Conference Room

Attendance: Trish Morokoff, co-chair, Gerald Williams, co-chair, Laura Beauvais, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Lynne Derbyshire, Robert Drapeau, Michelle Fontes-Barros, Gail Faris, Frank Forleo, Roxanne Gomes, Kyle Kusz, Jody Lisberger, Karoline Lopes, Helen Mederer, Lisa Abreu Morel, Marcia Morreira, Amy Olson, Eileen Orabone, John Pompey, Joanna Ravello, Jarso J. Saygbe, Barb Silver, Darnell Spencer, Sierra Stanton, Melvin Wade, Tammy Vargas Warner, Andrew Winters, and Bryana White.

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of the March 19, 2010 meeting were approved.
3. Announcements
 - a. Trish welcomed Marcia Morreira from CELS and Tammy Vargas Warner from FCCE.
 - b. Trish reported that she and Gerald had met with President Dooley and felt the meeting was productive.
 - c. I AM U-URI Unity in Difference will meet with Provost DeHayes and VP Tom Dougan on April 29. They will meet with President Dooley on May 4.
 - d. Membership appointment letters have been sent out. Please sign and return them to Eileen. Anyone needing a copy of their letter, please contact Eileen.
 - e. Letter was sent to President Dooley on 4/2/10 from the Equity Council.
 - f. Trish announced the winners for the Multicultural Center Diversity awards to Equity Council members and affiliates. Barb Silver is APAW Woman of the Year and the ceremony will take place on May 4.

4. Confidentiality

Trish reviewed the policy for confidentiality at meetings as discussed previously. There was discussion about the confidentiality of issues discussed at meetings. A motion was unanimously adopted revising our previous confidentiality policy. The new policy is as follows:

- a. No one will speak to the media concerning issues discussed at an Equity

- Council meeting unless agreed upon at the meeting.
- b. All discussion at Equity Council meetings will be confidential unless otherwise designated.
 - c. Minutes will be made public after approval.

5. Recent Incident on Campus

An incident occurred on campus on April 19th involving alleged misconduct by URI campus police toward two URI students. Director of Public Safety Robert Drapeau reported that an internal fact finding investigation is being conducted. Gerald said that the students had made a complaint to VP Dougan. A document was distributed to the Council regarding the incident with the agreement that it would be kept confidential. Discussion of this incident ensued. Much support was offered to the students by Council members. Frustration was expressed related to the lack of progress on campus. It was agreed by the Council that if police misconduct is alleged, it imposes a burden on the potential victim to have to make their report to a member of the police department. Concern was also expressed that the outcome of the report would not be made public. Council members further expressed the viewpoint that there should be greater diversity within the URI Police force.

A meeting has been scheduled by VP Dougan for Tuesday, April 27, 2010 for all parties including President Dooley to meet to discuss this issue. Trish and Gerald as Equity Council co-chairs will attend this meeting. A consensus was reached that three recommendations would be made at that meeting from the Equity Council:

- a. That there should be a means of reporting problems with URI Police actions to someone outside the URI Police.
- b. That there should be a community board to participate in and review internal URI Police investigations.
- c. That the results of investigations be made public to the extent possible in accord with campus and union policies.

6. It was agreed that another meeting be scheduled as soon as possible discuss items on the agenda that were not addressed. Eileen will send out meeting times.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.