

Equity Council meeting
Friday, April 26, 2013
1:00-2:30 p.m.
Alumni Center Board Room

Attendance: Lynne Derbyshire, co-chair, Michelle Fontes-Barros, co-chair, Kerri Hicks, Pamela Rohland, Marilda Ouiedo, Karol Leuzarder, Kayley Robsham, Liliana Costa, Frank Forleo, Sarah Couch, Annemarie Vaccaro, Alycia Mosley Austin, Delores Walters, Diane Kern, Annie Kosar, Naomi Thompson, Laura Beauvais, Ed Givens and Trish Morokoff

1. Introductions
2. LGBTQ Commission update:
 - a. Annemarie Vaccaro gave a brief update for the LGBTQ Commission. She said that Annie Russell convened a subcommittee and has been working with Laura Kenerson about putting resources on a website from HR and to make it more LGBTQ friendly. Laura is on board, but the concern is who will follow up on getting this information on the website. Vaccaro also reported that a number of transgender students attended the March meeting to share their campus experiences. Some of the issues they have been dealing with are difficulties in doing name changes, medical coverage, client/dr/nurse relationships and safety issues regarding bathrooms. She also indicated that Naomi, Carnell Jones, Annie and Dean Libutti have been meeting regarding the name change issue. Health Services has been doing work to train their staff. The LGBTQ Center has started a Trans 101 training to help with the sensitivity to trans students. The LGBTQ Center started a People of Transgender Support group. There was an LGBTQ Social held at Lynn McKinney's home on April 19. She reported that they would be doing some strategic planning at their future meetings to determine the future direction of the commission.
3. 20,000 Voices update:
 - a. Annie Kosar reported that there will be a follow-up meeting on May 2. The subcommittees have been meeting and Annemarie Vaccaro's class put together bound reports that will be going to the administration. Quad Angles is doing a story on 20,000 Voices and possibly doing a video.
 - b. Other points: What is the responsibility of committees after the May 2nd event? How do you dis-spell the priorities to the University? Items have been identified as priorities. Students are not updated on the processes. Maybe have reports/updates go out every 6 months.
4. VP Search Committee report -
 - a. Naomi reported on the names of the additional people of color on the

VP searches. Naomi Thompson & Marcia Garcia - VP Administration and Nasser Zawia & Shaw Chen - VP, Research & Econ Development. The Council suggested that they need to have a scheduled hour for the Equity Council and all commissions to meet with the VP candidates.

Action: Naomi will ask chairs of VP searches to consider having an interview with the candidates with the Equity Council and Commission chairs.

- b. Naomi also reported that she will be holding a meeting with the Commission and Division chairs on May 22nd. The purpose of this meeting will be to develop a strategic plan and to talk about processes and procedures. The goal is to bring folks together to collaborate, share information and develop commonalities of the different commissions and diversity committees. We will also be looking at the language in the University Manual.
5. RI Diploma Update:
 - a. It was reported that Deborah Gist is coming to URI on May 2nd. There was discussion as to who was invited to this meeting and why it was not publicized to the community. The Council thought that there should have been others invited to this meeting and they would let Lynne or Michelle know who those additional people should be. Discussion ensued and it was decided that Diane Kern would look at the most recent copy of the letter that was written and make any changes necessary. The Council asked that it be submitted to the Providence Journal and that the President, Linda Acciaro, Kerrie Bennett and Lori Ciccomascolo be cc'd. Diane Kern and Lynne Derbyshire would have their names on the letter for the paper.
 6. New Business:

Native American Advisory

 - a. Frank Forleo reported that they are moving forward on trying to get Sachem Thomas here to meet. He is trying to get a sense of timeframe for meeting, agenda, process of reformation and reestablish what has happened in the past. They want to get names on the Native American list to serve on advisory committee and said that leaders of respective nations should set agenda for first meeting.
 7. Announcements:
 - a. There will be HIV testing held on May 1 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 - b. St. Augustine's Church is starting a program called Feed A Friend. The first one is being held on April 30th.
 - b. Lavender Graduation is being held on April 18 for the LGBTQ students.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.