

## MINUTES

Equity Council Meeting

May 30, 2013

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Thomson Board Room, Ballentine Hall

Attendance: Michelle Fontes-Barros, co-chair, Lynne Derbyshire, co-chair, Betsy Cooper, Laura Beauvais, Naomi Thompson, Pamela Rohland, Rosemary Lavigne, Sarah Couch, Gerard Holder, David Hayes, Annemarie Vaccaro, Katrina Dorsey, Marilda Oviedo, Liliana Costa, Delores Walters, Aimee Lee, Roxanne Gomes, Alycia Mosley Austin, Diane Kern, Karol Leuzarder, Kyle Kusz, Steve Baker, Mailee Kue, Faye Boudreaux- Bartels, Barb Silver, Earl Smith, Annie Russell, Annie Kosar, Jody Lisberger and Eileen Orabone

1. Introductions
  - a. The March 8, 2013 and April 26, 2013 minutes were approved.
2. The President's Commission on Faculty, Staff and Students with Disabilities
  - History
    - 2006 formed an advisory committee of faculty, staff and students.
    - Pamela gave the history of this committee: June 11 and June 20- look at the language from other commissions in the University Manual. But make it language for this commission.
    - Suggested Topics: Gender-neutral bathrooms, there is no central evacuation plan in place for people with disabilities to exit a building safely.
3. CDO report
  - Leadership group
    - Group of Commission and Division diversity chairs met on May 22.
    - Purpose of the group is to streamline efforts and build on work of Equity Council.
    - The goal is to move the ideas forward and reduce duplicity of work on campus.
    - Group will meet in the future at least every other month.
    - Should we revisit the purpose of the Equity Council?
    - How long had it been since the Equity Council looked at the language?
  - VP search committee members update?
    - VP for Admin and Finance needs is recruiting more people to apply.
    - VP for Research is moving along nicely.
4. NECAP update
  - Diane Kern is leading next steps on the Op. Ed. that will be submitted regarding the URI view of this. This will go to the Equity Council soon.
  - The Board of Education will be reconsidering NECAP.
  - URI wants to be a partner with the state Board of Education and we're not feeling that this desire is being ignored.
  - Analysis of the NECAP when compared to other high stakes tests reveals that the math portion of NECAP has major problems.
  - English language learners, students from low income, and students with disabilities are not going to do as well as their counterparts.

## 5. Old Business

- Increasing faculty representation on Equity Council is important; we've done that, but are looking for a co-chair elect from the faculty to join Mailee as the next incoming co-chair.
- We may want to revisit how we appoint people to the Equity Council. What about the membership?
- Arming campus police
  - The Board of Education has left the decision to campus presidents as to whether campus police are armed.

## 6. New Business

- None

## 7. Announcements

- The Honors Colloquium - Tuesday, September 10-December 10; Richard Rothstein is opening speaker
  - Announcements regarding this will be out soon; Diane will send updates to Eileen
- June 19<sup>th</sup> is Transfer Orientation
  - Orientation day for Vets will be added to this schedule
- June 26<sup>th</sup> - Work Life Committee is sponsoring breakfast to review findings from study
  - Anybody in a supervisory capacity will be invited
- The LGBTQ Center will sponsor a bathroom walk through this summer
  - If you're interested in helping, contact the LGBTQ Center
- Ocean State Summer Writing Conference
  - June 21 and 22
  - Richard Blanco is inaugural poet who will be here on Friday
  - Iyad Akaar will be here, as well
  - Schedule will be sent to Eileen
- Campus Police are hiring candidates
  - Looking for diverse candidates
- LGBTQ Center Speaker Next Year - Gene Robinson is going to be on campus; if anyone would like to assist, please contact Doug Creed in the College of Business.
- GELS (Gender Equity and Leadership in Sexuality) LLC in GWS and LGBTQ Center - Diane Kern will help promote
- LGBTQ Center Welcome Video - if you're interested in helping/appearing, contact Annie Russell.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> - Day Long Retreat at Whispering Pines for Difficult Dialogues: Best Practices for Diversity in Faculty Recruitment
  - Let Eileen know if you'd like to go
  - CED will pay if you want to attend
- June 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> are HRL Director Candidate dates; open forum happens on these dates
- Proposals for Diversity Week events are available now
  - Pedro Noguiera will be here
  - Partnering with College of Arts and Sciences for Wednesday events
  - Tuesdays - films for this
  - September 30-October 6 this year

- Q & A/Other issues

\*Next meeting: September (date and time to be determined)

***Confidentiality policy***

*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.*