

Meeting Minutes

Equity Council

Thursday, May 6, 2010

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Green Hall President's Conference Room

Attendance: Trish Morokoff, co-chair, Gerald Williams, co-chair, Major Stephen Baker, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Debra Cohen, Lynne Derbyshire, Maxwell Edmonds, Gail Faris, Michelle Fontes-Barros, Frank Forleo, Ed Givens, Roxanne Gomes, Kyle Kusz, Karol Leuzarder, Jody Lisberger, Stephen Marchand, Lisa Abreu Morel, Ann Morrissey, Amy Olson, , Jason Pina, Radhika Pasupuleti, Melvin Wade, and Andrew Winters.

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of the April 22, 2010 meeting were approved.
3. Announcements:
 - a. I AM U-URI Unity in Difference met with Provost DeHayes and VP Tom Dougan on April 29 and with President Dooley on May 4th. Max Edmonds announced that they discussed the Academic Affairs Diversity Task Force draft document identifying learning outcomes for multicultural competencies in the curriculum among other issues.
 - b. Jody Lisberger announced that a student video, Seven Inches, won first place at the Visualizations film competition. This video had previously been identified as containing offensive material related to women and women's studies majors. There will be a URI Speak Out September 29, 2010 in the Memorial Union ballroom.

4. Confidentiality:

Trish reviewed the policy for confidentiality at meetings.

- 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. VP for Diversity proposal:

Melvin Wade presented the Equity Council Task Force on a VP for

Diversity position proposal for a Vice President for Institutional diversity and equity and Senior Vice Provost for Diversity and Global Educational Initiatives. Discussion ensued. There was consideration of whether units that are currently in Student Affairs would move to the new division. It was agreed that we have a follow-up meeting of the Task Force to identify pros and cons for various units of their location in their current division or the new division.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposal with several revisions:

- a. the new division (Division of Institutional Diversity and Equity) be added to the Division heading in the position description
- b. the preferred qualification "Certified diversity office" be removed from the position description
- c. a cover letter be prepared identifying the need for additional financial and human resources for existing operations

The motion was unanimously adopted. It was agreed that the proposal approved in this motion be presented by the Equity Council co-chairs to the President and Provost in separate meetings.

6. Follow-up on I AM U-URI Unity in Difference document. A response from various divisions on campus was presented to students in I AM U-URI Unity in Difference. Sections of the document were distributed. Equity Council members expressed strong concerns related to sections of the document.

7. Rosh Hashanah & Academic Calendar:

Amy Olson informed us that this fall Rosh Hashanah will start Wednesday Sept. 8 and go through Friday Sept. 10, coinciding with the beginning of the academic calendar. The need to make faculty and students aware of this conflict was discussed. In particular, faculty members need to be aware that students may miss classes at the beginning of the semester. It was agreed that the Equity Council will write letter to the Provost to bring this issue to his attention. Several members agreed to work on a drafting the letter.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.