

Equity Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday February 18, 2015  
3:00-4:30 p.m., Memorial Union  
Student Senate Chamber  
Kingston Campus

*"I don't speak because I have the power to speak; I speak because I don't have the power to remain silent" – Rabbi A.Y. Kook*

**Attendance:** Diane Kern (co-chair), Robert Samuels (co-chair), Carolyn Sovet, Tamara Bolotow, Carol L. Pegg, Pamela Rohland, Melvin Wade, Robert Vincent, Nancy H. Kelley, Ted Shear, Roxanne M. Gomes, Liliana Costa, Sarah Couch, Trish Morokoff, John Sears, Earl N. Smith III, Robert M. Koob, Annie M. Kosar, Maggy Charpentier, Michelle Fontes-Barros, David Hayes, Lynne Derbyshire, and Garry Bozylinsky.

**1. Welcome and introductions**

**2. Confidentiality Policy was read to the council members and affirmed.**

- Creating safe spaces for communication includes norms of empathic and non-judgmental listening; problem-solving orientation; equal respect for all community members.

**3. The minutes from January 29, 2015 meeting were approved.**

**4. Old Business**

- University manual changes, role of the Council and goals:
  - The catalog is being changed in many ways. It is taking some time. It is the handout submitted to Nancy Neff. We may meet with Nancy to discuss possible changes.
    - a. Co-chairs' meeting with Naomi Thompson
    - b. ACTION ITEM: A policy will be established to invite CDO once a semester. The Council will write a letter to CDO to explain the Council's discussion about the CDO's attendance to the meetings (4 abstentions).
- Security cameras on URI Campuses—update from Equity Council co-chairs: co-chairs will have a meeting and they will share the update with the Council at the next meeting.
- Student veterans' issue—update from Student Veterans Committee next meeting
- Student Senate equity issue follow up—Establish subgroup members and the subgroup's roles and responsibilities (Tabled).
  - Charge of the Student Senate equitable funding subgroup:
    - c. Obtain copy of full budget and itemized budget by multicultural student groups;
    - d. Examine Student Senate website for transparency of budget and funding processes;
    - e. Meet with Student Senate leaders and members of student groups that have concerns and record minutes of each meeting and share with Equity Council co-chairs
    - f. Other?
    - g. Report findings to Equity Council monthly, as appropriate.

## 5. New Business

- President Dooley meeting with Equity Council: Since we are in the process of discussing manual changes and goals, we will request to defer the President's attendance to the April meeting.

## 6. Announcements

- **Race, Violence and Democracy Colloquium to feature Bobby Seale**, Thursday, February 26, 6:00pm, Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Thomas M. Ryan Family Auditorium. The Black Panther Party for Self Defense co-founder Robert George "Bobby" Seale is the keynote speaker for the Race, Violence and Democracy Colloquium.
- There are two new campus officers hired. They will come to the Equity Council meeting.
- **LGBTQ Center Events: Lavender Graduation**, April 16, 2015, 6- 8 pm; URI students to perform **Vagina Monologues**, Feb. 26-28, 2015.

## 7. Meeting adjourned at 4.30 pm.