

Equity Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2015
9:00-10:30 a.m., Memorial Union
Student Senate Chamber
Kingston Campus

“You don't fight racism with racism, the best way to fight racism is with solidarity.”

~Bobby Seale

Attendance: Diane Kern (co-chair), Robert Samuels (co-chair), Debbie Suggs, Serap Hidir, Racine Amos, Melissa McCarthy, Susan Golet, Gerard Holder, Tory Kern, Dana Neugent, Amy Olson, Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Eileen Orabone, Ed Givens, Robert Vincent, Nancy H. Kelley, Roxanne M. Gomes, Liliana Costa, Trish Morokoff, Annie M. Kosar, Lynne Derbyshire, Michelle Fontes-Barros, Earl Smith, III, 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 February 18, 2015 meeting were approved.

4. Old Business

- University manual changes, role of the Council and goals – Diane
 - They are in progress. There has been a shared agreement but no formal vote so far. –
 - There was a discussion about the content of manual changes.
 - Link to meeting with President Dooley: He is meeting with all councils and committees; we need our goals so that we can articulate them.
 - Website update: The website has been updated, new website is live. We will keep updating it.
 - Membership recruitment, terms, and letters to new members, maintaining records: We need to think about how to keep it organized. We need the information about terms ending so that letters will be sent to people for next year's recruitment.
- CDO attendance at Equity Council meetings—letter update – Bob
- Security cameras on URI Campuses—update from Equity Council co-chairs after meeting with Christina Valentino, Steve Baker and Paul Ricci – Bob
 - They increased the number of functioning cameras but there are still problems about the system. Not all cameras are connected to one system. They will keep us informed and we will share it with the council. VP Valentino is making this a priority and striving to improve budgetary resources for this.
- Student veterans' issue—Debbie Suggs and Nancy Kelley
 - A report regarding data on the University military affiliated students was handed out.
 - As a result of two meetings, we have had some progress on a veteran specific staff member and a center.
- Student Senate equitable funding update—Melvin Wade (Tabled)

5. New Business

- President Dooley meeting with Equity Council – Diane and Bob
 - a. Meeting with Co-Chairs of Presidential Commissions and CDO
 - Equity Council will meet with President Dooley on **Thursday, April 23, 10:00-11:00 a.m.**
 - b. Process to prepare for meeting with President Dooley
 - Recent successful process from colleagues on the Presidential Commission on People with Disabilities – Diane
 - c. Our process:
 1. Sub-group meeting—week of April 1st
 2. Co-chairs meeting with CDO to discuss focus and strategy of meeting with President Dooley—week of April 6th
 3. Sub-group meeting for final preparation—week of April 13th
 4. All Equity Council members and President Dooley – April 23.

6. Announcements

- **If you have a phone on your desk, we can program a button that will directly connect to public safety—Garry Bozylinsky will follow up with process.**
- **Ask Big Questions** follow up (1 minute—Amy, Carol or Robert)—please let us know next steps to be on the lookout for.
- **RIDE Values Priorities** feedback online at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcMLp_R_d4E (1 minute—Earl)
- **Diversifying Individuals Via Education (D.I.V.E) Rhode Island Conference**, March 27-28: This student-led conference is hosted by URI's Multicultural Unity and Student Involvement Council (M.U.S.I.C.). The conference will focus on race and ethnicity in higher education and will be geared toward sustaining, empowering and creating student leaders. This event seeks to promote intercultural competence and inclusion on college campuses through workshops and discussions.
- **"Vital Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in the 21st Century,"** Speaker: Dr. Marc Lamont
- Hill Saturday, March 28, 5 to 6 p.m., Memorial Union, Ballroom
- **Gender Empowerment Week**, March 23-27, 2015, The Women's Center
- **Fourth Annual Humanities Festival**, "Trayvon, Michael, Eric, Tamir...Post Racial America?" Speaker: Dr. Peneil Joseph Tuesday, April 7, 7 to 9 p.m, Agnes Doody Auditorium, Swan Hall
- **Sexual Assault Awareness Week** April 6-9, 2015 sponsored by URI Peer Educators. URI Violence and Prevention Advocacy Services and URI Women's Center
- **URI's 17th Annual Diversity Awards Banquet**, April 21, Memorial Union Ballroom April 21, 6 to 9:30 p.m.

- **Gender and Sexuality Center Events: Lavender Graduation**, April 16, 2015, 6-8 pm
- **Social Justice Mediation Institute**, UMASS Amherst, May 13-17, 2015
www.sjmediation.org

7. Meeting adjourned 10.30