

Equity Council Meeting Agenda  
Monday, March 28, 2016  
3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Galanti Lounge, URI Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."  
~Alice Walker

Attendance:

Diane Kern	Amy Olson
Bob Samuels	Garry Bozylinsky
Steve Baker	Faye Boudreaux-Bartels
Lynne Derbyshire	Gerald Williams
Zahra Meghani	Melvin Wade
Robert Vincent	Jackie Sparks
Melvin Wade	Debbie Suggs

a. **Welcome and Introductions**

b. **Affirmation of Confidentiality Policy**

c. **Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2016 meeting - Approved.**

d. **Updates**

- Steve Baker updated the Equity Council on the bias/hate incident on Thursday, 3/24/16.
  - A print flyer with anti Semitic flyer here at the URI Kingston Library was received on a Library printer, URI police report, we later on learned that this is happening at Brown, UMASS Amherst, and other campuses (15 or so nationwide), and an individual has claimed responsibility--30 year-old, member of group Daily Stormer—this is considered hate speech, not a crime according to law because University computers were not hacked; this is considered a bias/hate incident: Steve Baker contacted Amy Olson, contacted Naomi Thompson. On Friday—notice to community, concerned there might be other flyers on desks during spring break, another printing at the Bay campus—Bob Sand in IT, today 3 more from Bay campus, spoke with Naomi Thompson—President Dooley will make a statement on this issue; there has been media interest; members of the community are hurt by this. Notice from Public Safety regarding anti Semitic document that were printed on URI campus on Thursday. The person who committed this hate/bias incident was not a URI student.
  - Question: What has been the response of other institutions or universities?
  - Answer: This information has been sent to about 20-30,000 printers, probably around the world. Reactions of other universities have been to issue a statement regarding the document.
  - Comment: I appreciate the URI police updating us right away about this issue. This is not targeting URI; it's more widespread than that.
  - Comment: The good news is that the method of exposure is very limited. It's not like it was shared on a listserv or on social media. This is more widely known because of the media's response to it. Let's try to see if we can celebrate Jewish culture and heritage in the coming times. Let's see if we can get the biggest support for Holocaust Remembrance Week.
  - Comment: Let's ensure, too, that we make sure we are supporting this for more than just the week.

- e. **Membership and election of Co-Chairs to begin two-year term June 2016**
  - o Decision to re-open nominations for new co-chairs before and during the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and to vote on April 27th.
  - o Faye Boudreaux-Bartels accepted the nomination for faculty co-chair position.
  
- f. **Equity Council Working Groups and Committee Charge for 2015-2016: Scheduling meeting with President Dooley and the Equity Council**
  - Council voted to request a meeting with the President annually in September and with the Chief Diversity Officer annually in January.
  
- g. **Other business**
  - **Update on Veteran's issues:** Currently, there is no Veteran's Affair committee. We have made requests for coordinators, but they can only come 2-3 times a week. To sum it all up, nothing is happening. It's at a standstill. Veteran's committee reports from previous years were shared with the President.
  
- h. **Announcements**
  - Diversity week call for proposals is coming out next week

**Next meetings:**

Wednesday, 4/27/16, 1:30pm-3:00pm, [Thomson Board Room \(Ballentine Hall, 3rd floor\)](#)

Monday, 5/9/16, 3:00pm-4:30pm, [Pharmacy Room 130](#)

***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.*