Council for Diversity and Interculturalism  
Meeting Minutes  
April 18, 2012

The monthly meeting of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism of 2011-2012 was held on April 18, 2012 in the Gordon Ball Board Room at the Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. Present at the meeting were Tyvi Small, Annazette Houston, Avery G. Howard, William Hill, Charles Houston, Jenny Moshak, Margie Nichols, Denae D’Arcy, Anton Reece, Mike Wirth, and Tracy Childress.

I. Chief Diversity Officer Update

Margie Nichols reported that advertising for the Vice Chancellor of Diversity position will begin immediately. Interviews will most likely begin in the fall. Open forums will provide an opportunity for broad-based input for the campus at-large. The starting date for the position will most likely follow the selected candidate’s availability.

Council members would like to have an opportunity to review the position description before it is finalized. Also, they would like more information about the reporting structure that will support the new Vice Chancellor’s efforts.

The following people have agreed to serve on the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Diversity: Vincent Anfara, Ernest Brothers, Wanda Costen, Shane Colter, Avery Howard, RJ Hinde, Margie Nichols, Mary Papke, Anton Reece, Jennifer Richter, Donna Thomas, and Todd Skelton. Bob Rider will chair the committee.

There was a general discussion concerning the composition of the search committee. It was decided that Tracy Childress will contact Margie Nichols (who had to leave the meeting early) on behalf of the Council Co-chairs and ask whether the LGBT community is openly represented on the search committee. If there is not open LGBT representation, the search committee will be invited to contact one of the LBGT Commission co-chairs. One of the co-chairs will recommend a person willing to serve in that capacity. Additionally, the Council will request the opportunity to review the job description before it is distributed.

II. Commission/ Ready for the World Reports

BFSA

Charles Houston reported that the BFSA will host a dinner tonight for 35 scholarship recipients. Coca Cola awarded $60,000 in scholarship funding in support of the Alex Haley Scholarship Celebrity Golf Tournament. This year’s Tournament will take place on May 20th- 21st.

Annazette Houston shared highlights from her recent meeting with Chancellor Cheek. They discussed ways to continue and to broaden the diversity dialogue on campus following the success of the 50th Anniversary of African American Achievement Celebration. Ideas included installing an historical maker
to commemorate UTK's desegregation. A program inviting each campus unit to talk about diversity within their unit may also be planned.

Dean Michael Wirth asked whether a book capturing the 50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary is still scheduled. Ms. Houston responded stating that a great deal of research has been compiled for the effort. Also, Chancellor Cheek is still interested. The book may take place in a different form than initially envisioned and it may incorporate all aspects of diversity.

Dean Wirth also asked whether each of the achievers recognized during the 50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Celebration received a gift honoring their participation and commemorating the event. Mr. Houston stated that the achievers did not receive gifts. He agreed that a certificate or commemorative gift is a good idea.

\textbf{LGBT}

Jenny Moshak announced that the Commission will host the first ever Lavender Graduation Celebration on Thursday April 26th. The theme of the ceremony is “Come as You Are and Graduate as Who You Are.” So far, about 50 people plan to attend. The Lavender Graduation will celebrate graduate and undergraduate students. The event will take place in the Mary Gray room of Hodges Library from 7p-10pm.

Dr. William Hill asked how the student participants were identified. Ms. Moshak reported that LAMDA, and Facebook were utilized.

The Office of Multicultural Life and the Black Cultural Programing Committee will hold their 4\textsuperscript{th} Annual Multicultural Graduation Celebration on Sunday, April 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 4p.m. in the University Center Auditorium.

\textbf{III. Membership}

Dean Wirth reviewed the membership recommendations that the Membership Committee developed at its March 7\textsuperscript{th} meeting. Also, Tyvi Small was nominated to replace Anton Reece as co-chair for the CDI for the 2012-2013 session. He accepted the nomination.

\textbf{IV. New Business}

Mr. Small shared a few highlights from the Justice for Trayvon Forum. He reported that the students focused on advocating for diversity and becoming involved at UT.

Dr. Hill asked whether anyone was aware of a recent incident concerning the Rock. Reportedly, two students sat in front of the Rock deliberately blocking access and preventing another student from writing his message. After a brief discussion, it was decided that more information was needed to determine the motivation of the students that blocked access to the Rock. Council members agreed that it is important to know whether their purpose to prevent the student from sharing his message or if their goal was to protect their own message. Though details are sparse, the incident may indicate that clearer protocol for utilizing the Rock may be needed.
The search for the College of Business Administration Dean is being extended. A search is also underway for an Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources.

V. Next Meeting

The Council will meet on Wednesday May 16th at 3:30 p.m. in the Gordon ball Boardroom, Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. This will be the last meeting of the session.