Council for Diversity and Interculturalism
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2013

The monthly meeting of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism of 2012-2013 was held on March 20, 2013 in the Gordon Ball Board Room at the Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. Present at the meeting were Herb Byrd, Tyvi Small, Dan Berryman, Mary Lucal, Adam Cureton, Annazette Houston, Marcus Jones, Tyler Johnson Keith Kirkland, Marva Rudolph, Rita Smith, Steve Thomas, Mike Wirth, John Zomchick and Brian Thomas.

I. Follow Up on Meeting with Rickey Hall

Herb Byrd reiterated Rickey’s message for the council to stay engaged and keep moving forward.

II. Update from Commissions

Commission for LGBT people

Keith Kirkland shared the elections for LGBT chair are beginning to take place. Also, the commission is holding a Lavender Graduation Ceremony in April. For more information and other news on the LGBT activities, please visit http://lgbt.utk.edu/.

III. Co-Chair Elections

Tyvi Small asked any interested party to send in any nominations to serve at the next co-chair of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism.

IV. Addition of At-Large Members

Tyler Johnson said that as a member of the Membership subcommittee, they will take charge of membership moving forward. There was some confusion as to who was rolling on and who was rolling off. The confusion came from the Class of 2012 who was re-invited, rather than rolling off. Caula Beyl and Stanley Bowie have not yet been invited by the Chancellor. Marva Rudolph raised the question, is there anything we can do to get no-shows to attend or send a representative? Herb suggested a proposal that members need to attend a certain amount of meetings.

V. Employee Engagement Survey

Dan Berryman and Mary Lucal attended the meeting and discussed opportunities for improvement among UTSI and UTK, as well as the make-up of the UTSI/UTK work culture task force. There was some discussion about how diverse the subcommittees involved within the task force are and how these subcommittees are working with diversity. There was a long discussion about how to get other groups to ask for the data and how the next collection of data will be different. The last time, there were two different instruments used, which made the process confusing. It was suggested to form a focus group
with members from other commissions and this council to meet and brainstorm ideas on how to improve on the data.

VI. Update on Proposed Senate Bills

Dr. Byrd updated that the bill in which no college or university would have a Chief Diversity Officer has been tabled.

VII. Diversity Plans

The discussion on the diversity plans will be talked about at the April CDI meeting.

VIII. Website Update

Brian Thomas showed the members in attendance the newly designed CDI website. The URL was emailed to the entire council for members to view and make any suggestions before the site goes live. Tyvi Small would like the website up and running as soon as possible.

IX. New Business

No new business was shared at this time.

X. Next Meeting

The Council will meet on Wednesday, April 17th at 3:30 p.m. in the Gordon ball Boardroom, Brenda Lawson Athletic Center.