The monthly meeting of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism of 2012-2013 was held on April 17, 2013 in the Gordon Ball Board Room at the Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. Present at the meeting were Herb Byrd, Alecia Davis, Adam Cureton, Tyler Johnson Keith Kirkland, Anton Reece, Steve Thomas, Mike Wirth, John Zomchick, Jenny Richter, David Ndiaye, and Brian Thomas.

I. Update from Commissions

Commission for Blacks
Jenny Richter shared that the ballots for co-chair elections have opened up for the commission. More information on the commission can be found at http://web.utk.edu/~cfb/.

Commission for Women
Jenny shared that the commission has made recommendations to the Provost to encourage them to rewrite the policy on student/faculty consentual relationships. The commission also had a very good turnout for their program about breast feeding in the education setting. Lastly, Jenny talked about the concerns the commission expressed at their last meeting about how the University handled Sex Week. News on the commission for women can be found at http://cfw.utk.edu/.

Commission for LGBT people
Keith Kirkland shared the LGBT has similar concerns on how the University handled Sex Week. The commission also has new co-chairs in place for next year. They are Phyliss Shey and Joel Kramer. Finally, 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/.

BFSA
Alecia Davis mentioned that the BSFA is looking to hold its first SEC BFSA Conference in March of 2014. Other news on the association can be is located at http://web.utk.edu/~bfsa/.

II. Co-Chair Nominations

The Council has received 4 nominations for the position of Co-Chair. They are Robert J. Hinde, Carolyn Hodges, Anton Reece, and Maxine Davis. Of the nominations, Robert J. Hinde, Carolyn Hodges, and Anton Reece have all declined. Mike Wirth made the nomination of Joan Hemmingway as a possible candidate.

III. Membership Update

The update of the members of the council will be discussed at the May CDI meeting. Rita Smith was invited to be a member of the council, however, Caula Beyl and Stanley Bowie were not.
IV. Review By-Law Changes

The changes to the by-laws will also be discussed at the May CDI meeting.

V. Chancellor’s Diversity Award

Anton Reece accepted the position as chair of this committee. He drafted a proposal for the award and will meet with other members of the committee so the proposal can be presented to the council at the May CDI meeting.

VI. Update on Summerville Legislation Bills

Dr. Byrd shared that a bill was submitted in which UT faculty would not receive the 1.5% pay increase across the board. This bill is not expected to pass.

VII. Employee Engagement Survey

Dr. Byrd read an email for Dan Berryman and Mary Lucal in which they hope to meet in the near future with those who have volunteered to be on the focus team.

VIII. New Business

A suggestion was made to have a welcome reception in the fall for Rickey Hall.

IX. Next Meeting

The Council will meet on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. in the Gordon ball Boardroom, Brenda Lawson Athletic Center.