The monthly meeting of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism of 2013-2014 was held on September 18, 2013 in the Gordon Ball Board Room at the Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. Present at the meeting were Rickey Hall, Angela Batey, Alecia Davis, David Golden, Maxine Davis, Tim Hiles, Annazette Houston, Joel Kramer, Donna Braquet (for Phyliss Shey), Sandy Mixer, Althea Murphy-Price, Anton Reece, Damien Pitts, Rita Smith, Tyvi Small, Rosa Thomas (for Mary Papke), Paul Troy, Mike Wirth, John Zomchick and Brian Thomas.

I. Introductions

The meeting began with brief introductions and the recognition of new members and the membership contact list was distributed. Our new members include:
Rickey Hall – Vice Chancellor for Diversity
Lili’a Neville – Commission for Blacks
Karla McKanders – Commission for Blacks
Phyliss Shey – Commission for LGBT People
Joel Kramer – Commission for LGBT People
Paul Troy – Student Government Association
Damien Pitts – Graduate Student Senate
Eric Stokes – Office of Undergraduate Admissions
David Golden – Faculty Senate
Angela Batey – Arts and Sciences
Adam Cureton – Philosophy
Althea Murphy-Price – School of Art
Sandy Mixer – College of Nursing
Tim Hiles – School of Art

Budget Update
CDI does have a budget for the 2013-2014 year. The budget includes funds to support the Graduate Research Assistant but also includes some more for the CDI to be able to sponsor events and programs.

Committee Sign-ups

A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to sign up for one of the four committees (Membership/Nomination, Communications, Diversity Plan, Climate, and Ad-Hoc By-Laws). Each committee will have co-chairs, along with several other members.

II. Update from Commissions
Commission for Blacks
The Commission for Blacks is hosting "Engaging Your Community: Retention of African Americans in Knoxville." This event will feature a panel of Knoxville leaders discussing what Knoxville offers African Americans and how African Americans can find their connection with the city. The panelists include: Rickey Hall, VC of Diversity; Madeline Roger, Mayor of Knoxville; Phyllis Nichols, President of Knoxville Area Urban League; and Buzz Goss, Developer and Founder of Marble Alley Development LLC. Sharee Gilbert of WVLT will emcee.

We are soliciting questions for our panel via an online survey: http://tiny.utk.edu/retentionpanel

The event is Tuesday, November 12 from noon to 1:00 pm in the College of Law, room 135. Boxed lunches will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Drinks will not be provided.

More information is available on our website, http://web.utk.edu/~cfb

Upcoming Meeting
The next Commission for Blacks meeting will be on October 2 at noon in the Multipurpose Room at the Black Cultural Center.

Collaboration with the BFSA
The BFSA’s "Get to Know Me" spotlights African American faculty and staff at UT. The Commission for Blacks and the BFSA will collaborate on the recruitment and promotion of the "Get to Know Me" spotlight.

Commission for Women
The commission is working on program that involves women and science. They are also looking to have a keynote speaker come to campus at some point but no word was given on who that speaker may be. News on the commission for women can be found at http://cfw.utk.edu/.

Commission for LGBT people
For more information and other news on the LGBT, please visit http://lgbt.utk.edu/.

BFSA
The BFSA on plans for BFSA conference. The conference was originally looking at a possible 2014 conference but plans are looking more toward a 2015 conference. The first workshop is coming up October 9th and 10th in the Black Cultural Center. Additionally, there will be a meet and greet coming up in November. Other news on the association can be is located at http://web.utk.edu/~bfsa/.

III. Rickey Hall – Vice Chancellor for Diversity
Rickey first discussed why he decided to come to Tennessee. He believes that Tennessee is now ready to commit to becoming more diverse. He then touched on which divisions will report to his new office which includes the Outreach/LGBT Resource Center, Educational Advancement Program, Office of
Equity and Diversity, Office of Multicultural Student Life. Rickey than shared the draft of his office’s new mission statement. He went into some of the challenges and surprises he has experienced thus far. He stressed the importance of communication. He plans to email the Deans, Directors, and Department Heads and to ask them to share diversity efforts that are taking place within their area. When addressing how CDI can support him, he reiterated communication to him about what is going on. He is also looking for gain advice from CDI. Additionally, he envisions the CDI and commissions collaborating on a potential education program that would involve orientation and training. He hopes that a diversity vision framework can be in motion for next fall. Rickey ended by opening up the discussion to everyone for questions.

IV. New Business

September 19-21, Office of the Provost will be holding their Future Faculty Program.

VI. Next Meeting

The Council will meet on Wednesday October 16th at 3:30 p.m. in the Gordon ball Boardroom, Brenda Lawson Athletic Center.