The monthly meeting of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism of 2013-2014 was held on January 15, 2014 in the Gordon Ball Board Room at the Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. Present at the meeting were Herb Bryd, Adam Cureton, David Golden, Rickey Hall, Annazette Houston, Tyler Johnson, Joel Kramer, Althea Murphy-Price, Margie Nichols, Damien Pitts, Tyvi Small, Paul Troy, Michael Wirth, John Zomchick, Donna Braquet, and Brian Thomas

I. Update from Commissions

Commission for Blacks
Maxine Davis shared the successful Retention of African American Forum recently held by the commission. More information is available on our website, http://web.utk.edu/~cfb

Commission for Women
News on the commission for women can be found at http://cfw.utk.edu/.

Commission for LGBT people
The commission has not yet met due to the semester just getting underway but they are working on project for all new building to have family style restrooms. For more information and other news on the LGBT, please visit http://lgbt.utk.edu/.

BFSA
No updates were shared at the meeting. News on the association can be is located at http://web.utk.edu/~bfsa/.

II. Committee Sign-Ups
A sheet was passed around for members to review which committees they have signed up for and to sign up for one for those who have yet to do so. The committees consisted of Membership, By Laws, Communication, Diversity Plans, and Climate.

III. By-Laws Update
We asked that members sign up for the By-Laws committee to help the by-laws better reflect the vision of Vice Chancellor Hall.

IV. Co-Chair Nominations
The co-chairs asked members to think about anyone who they potentially like to nominate for the position of co-chair. The position of co-chair term is a 2 year term and we hope to have some nominations by next meeting. The voting process will take place electronically.
V. Chancellor’s Diversity Award Update
Members who sign up for the committee will assist Anton Reece in viewing the nominations and the selection of a winner. The award has been submitted to the Chancellor for approval.

VI. New Business
American College Personnel Association is having Everyone Matters Day in which events around campus relating to diversity aimed to be launched. This will take place Wednesday, April 2, 2014. Vice Chancellor Hall desires to build momentum in areas of diversity leading up to this day.

Vice Chancellor Hall wants to put together a Diversity team that takes a look at items such as the Diversity Plans to further ensure that we are making progress on our diversity goals. He will be holding a Department/Unit Diversity Committees and Council Summit to look at the diversity practices across campus and generate new ideas in hopes of getting more by in across campus. Later this year a letter will be set out to the department and units about the next step in the diversity plan process.

Donna Braquet spoke on the OUTreach Ambassador Program that prepares students on LGBT issues. One of the goals of the program is to build leaders in the program through experiences and training and another goal is to prepare these students for interaction in the real world. The program made a request to CDI to help fund the program’s trip to a leadership conference at Vanderbilt University later this year.

Annazette Houston talked about the accessibility task force made of faculty, staff, and students that look at what they are doing well and where they can make improvements. The task force is separated into four subgroups consisting of accessibility, education, accommodations, and programs. Vice Chancellor Hall would like to put together a report by the end of the semester in hopes of having goals that can be achieved this coming fall.

Herb Bryd shared that he will be attending a meeting in reference to the employee engagement survey. This meeting will take place prior to our next meet and will give the council an update at your February meeting.

VII. Next Meeting
The Council will meet on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in the Gordon Ball Boardroom, Brenda Lawson Athletic Center.