The monthly meeting of the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism of 2013-2014 was held on May 21, 2014 in the Gordon Ball Board Room at the Brenda Lawson Athletic Center. Present at the meeting were Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek, Vice Chancellor Rickey Hall, Alecia Davis, Carolyn Hodges, David Golden, Tyler Johnson, Damien Pitts, Margie Nichols, Anton Reece, Phyllis Shey, Tyvi Small, Eric Stokes, Paul Troy, John Zomchick, and Brian Thomas.

I. Remarks from Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek

No comments were made to reflect on Chancellor Jimmy Cheek’s visit last meeting.

II. Update from Commissions

Commission for Blacks
The commission will be meeting to with regards to the retention of African American students. More information is available at 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
Chancellor Cheek visited the commission the last week of April. The commission did feel that they meeting could have been more productive. For more information and other news on the LGBT, please visit http://lgbt.utk.edu/.

BFSA
Commission plans to continue to meet monthly throughout the summer to plan events. The big event that is being pushed is the symposium scheduled for March of 2015. Additionally, the association will be holding upcoming elections. News on the association can be is located at http://web.utk.edu/~bfsa/.

III. By-Laws Update

The co-chairs reviewed the changes made to the council’s by-laws. One of the changes to membership included an attempt to better focus the required members. Some discussion then took place on if and how Black Faculty and Staff Association would continue to have representation within CDI. The CDI meetings are open to anyone and the BFSA is welcome to continue to be updated on the activity of the council and attend all meetings as an ex-officio member. Vice Chancellor Hall made the suggestion to allow feedback from council members to the changes. A larger discussion then took place on the term “advocacy” and what it actually means regarding to the roll of this council. Members continued to make
suggestions to improve the wording for better clarity of the by-laws. The roll of the Graduate Assistant will change with the new structure of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity. The Graduate Assistant will collaborate with the Vice Chancellor’s Graduate Assistant in working with the offices and commissions.

IV. Co-Chair Elections

The only nominee received by CDI for the position of junior co-chair was for Annazette Houston of the Office of Disability Services, to which she had accepted the nomination. Though unable to attend the meeting, the present members voted to name her as the next co-chair. She was officially named co-chair by a vote of 13-0. Present co-chair Tyvi Small will roll off as co-chair and Annazette will serve as co-chair along with senior co-chair Tyler Johnson.

V. New Business

Tyler Johnson mentioned an article in Time Magazine, written by Kareem Abdul-Jabar which talks about the Donald Sterling controversy.

VI. Next Meeting
This concludes our scheduled meetings for the 2013-2014 year.