

**Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council**  
Minutes  
September 22, 2022

**Present** - Chassidy Cooper, Felipe Fiuza, Adrianna Guram, Keith Johnson, Mary Jordan, Kim Maturo, Laura Terry, Phyllis Thompson, and Jessica Wang

**Not Present** - Amyre Cain, Gladstone Gunn, Joe Sherlin, and Rachel Walden

- I. **Call to Order** - Chassidy Cooper called the meeting to order.
  
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Felipe Fiuza and seconded, stating, “I move that the minutes from the July 19, 2022 meeting be approved as written.” A motion was made by Phyllis Thompson and seconded, stating, “I move that the minutes from the August 18, 2022 meeting be approved as written.” The motions carried. In keeping with open lines of communication, the approved minutes will be uploaded to the Office of Equity and Inclusion website.
  
- III. **Old Business**
  - A. **Voices of Inclusion Award** – Chassidy Cooper noted that the Voices of Inclusion Award and letters of support are available for review and feedback by council members. A link to access the award application and related documents was provided to council members via email prior to the meeting. The application submission deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Adrianna Guram added that there is an opportunity to add some supplemental information such as highlight other campus programs/activities/events such as the “Y’all Don’t Hear Me” event. The question was asked if there is a way to incorporate a timeline to visually show how things have evolved and changed. Mary Jordan will try to schedule some time with Chassidy Cooper and Adrianna Guram to discuss the origins of some of the long standing work that’s been done.
  
  - B. **4th Annual Equity and Inclusion Conference** – Adrianna Guram shared that conference registration deadline was September 21<sup>st</sup>. Tickets can still be purchased through the Martin Center box office through Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> during the pre-conference event. Student registration is up from prior years. In-person check-in for the conference is Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00pm at the Martin Center pre-conference event with Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and Tuesday morning, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Names tags are required to enter in-person sessions. All attendees are encouraged to download the Whova app. Rachel Walden added that the Whova platform has all the overall information an attendee needs to know about the conference such as, agenda, speaker bios, community engagement, etc. Kim Maturo noted that volunteers can pick up a lunch ticket from one of the co-chairs for free lunch on the days of the conference. The Women and Gender Resource Center will be hosting a hospitality room throughout the days of the conference offering coffee and tea. Adrianna Guram noted that this hybrid conference is like doing two conferences simultaneously; an entire version happening virtually and an entire version happening in-person. This type of conference requires numerous volunteers in various roles to produce. Adrianna Guram is appreciative of all the time and energy each volunteer has, and will, contribute to the conference.

- C. **Moon Shot** – Keith Johnson informed the council that EAB recently sent emails to required respondents requesting them to participate in a survey to collect data as part of a diagnostic response to best practices, change leadership, and equity mindedness. A Moon Shot website/portal is being created which will be used to communicate updates, etc. with the campus.

#### IV. **New Business**

##### A. **Open Discussion Items**

Laura Terry and Felipe Fiuza shared that the Umoja Festival was a successful event even with the rainy weather. They estimate attendance was around 3,000 throughout the day.

Felipe Fiuza mentioned that he was involved in a celebration at the Langston Center to celebrate the beginning of Latin Heritage Month; a poetry reading by Nikki Giovanni sponsored by several departments such as the Black American Studies Program, the Language and Culture Resource Center, and the College of Arts and Sciences; and ETSU Together/International Day of Peace. Felipe Fiuza read a poem he wrote at the ETSU Together event centered around people on campus who are involved in equity and inclusion. Laura Terry added that both the Nikki Giovanni and ETSU Together events had a significant number of students in attendance.

Mary Jordan remarked that watching from afar, she is very proud of how progressive campus has become and it makes her homesick, makes her wish she could still be here to participate more.

Phyllis Thompson reported that the grand re-opening of the Women and Gender Resource Center was beautifully organized, planned, and officiated by Michelle Hurley. Attendees came from all areas of campus. The WGRC has numerous events scheduled in conjunction with other departments and organization across campus.

Phyllis Thompson added that WGS on Wednesday continues with the next talk on Indigenous Women's Culture and History by Debi Thibeault.

Laura Terry shared that there is now an African-American counselor in the counseling center, Khia Hudgins-Smith. Rachel Walden noted that she did an identity and intersectionality workshop with the first year med students.

Dr. Kevin Brooks will be joining the staff at the Multicultural Center in October as the new Director.

#### IV. **Next Meeting Date** – October 20, 2022, 1:00-2:00 pm, via zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by **Kim Maturo**