

**President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity**  
**General Meeting**  
**January 25, 2018**

Attendance: Y. Al-Khudairi, L. Candal-Fernandez, M. Cascarano, K. Chipepo, M. Colon, F. de Carvalho, A. Diaz, C. Drost, S. Gardner, F. Hines, R. Judge, S. Marschall, C. Meneghin, S. Paulino, D. Phillips-Clark, C. Reyes-Cuevas, T. Seaboch, M. Shark

**I. Welcome:**

Meneghin called meeting at 12:05 pm

Approval of November 29, 2017 minutes: Motion by Cuevas to approve; seconded by Cottle. November 2017 Minutes approved.

**II. New Business**

**a. Sidewalk Cutouts**

Meneghin commented that the curb cuts are not painted and are not always visible. She proposed a recommendation to University Facilities to either paint or mark the cutouts using red, yellow, or other appropriate color to make them more noticeable. A communication reminder will then be sent to all, including delivery companies that the cutouts should not be blocked. This reminder would be sent annually. The proposal was approved.

Another suggestion was made by member Reyes-Cuevas to have check points at the main entrances, which was something used years by way of a booth. Visitors including those driving buses on field trips or drivers dropping off deliveries currently do not have a place to go to ask for assistance upon arrival. Meneghin responded that she will bring this suggestion to the Safety Committee, and that her staff is currently working with an off campus company on updated and newer signs. Several roads will be named with signs, even inside of campus, and the MSU map will be updated via the web services department. Rogers commented that the even the current signage needs to be well clear.

**b. Equity & Diversity Updates**

Gardner updated on the Equity and Diversity Open House held on January 24<sup>th</sup> in new space (formerly the Montclarion space). In addition, a multicultural center was created.

The following upcoming programs were announced by Gardner:

### The Social Justice Institute

The Social Justice Institute will take place on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The format will be include a facilitator, with attendees working in small groups. On February 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a 3-hour training session for students to become peer leaders in order to help facilitate the conference, including difficult dialogues. Members were asked to share this information with students and others who might be interested. The location is University Hall 7<sup>th</sup> floor; with registration by February 5<sup>th</sup> via HawkSync.

### Equity and Diversity Lecture Series

Discussions will take place in Student Center with faculty members discussing race, research, and other relevant topics.

### Women's Center- "Elect Her"

The focus is getting women into politics and getting women interested in student government on campuses. The training program will be on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>

## **III. Old Business**

### **a. Sponsorship**

Cottle updated on new sponsorship requests:

Motion by Cottle to support the Social Justice Institute with \$250 for refreshments. Seconded by Al-Khudairi; Motion approved

Reyes-Cuevas requested \$150 in sponsorship for refreshments for Latina Day to be held during Women's History Month in March. Latina Day is an opportunity to bring a Latina to campus to come and talk about their experience. Cottle will review the budget with Treasurer Hines and will update at the February meeting.

Matthews requested \$200 for refreshments after the Black Heritage Month Flag Raising on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **b. Affirmative Action Day**

Rogers explained that she has communicated with Cornell Brooks, former NAACP President, as plans continue to bring him to campus to talk about his perspective on conditions in society. She is looking at \$500 for the honorarium, however, this expense would be covered by another group. The event will likely be held in either March or April depending on his availability. The event will be publicized everywhere possible and members will be asked to spread the word, attend the Affirmative Action Day Flag Raising. Gardner will be work on the proclamation, which will all come from her area going forward now.

## IV. Discussion

### a. National Dialogue – MeToo

A conversation was had on members' thoughts regarding stress levels and issues in our country resulting in the "MeToo" movement. It was mentioned that CAPS is really busy right now dealing with student stress issues. Diaz commented that female students do not want to take late classes due to fears including being cat called while walking to their vehicles by themselves. Meneghin suggested the guardian phone app students can use. The app works like a tracking device that allows users to send out information about their location once the user activates it. Users create a pin number which they must use to turn the app off, otherwise, an officer will be dispatched to the location. Chipepo updated that he has brought up concerns to his group, and campus police are working on being more visible around campus during evening hours.

Another phone app that was mentioned is the "Circle of Six" which allows users to set up line of communication with six people they create to check on the individual. It was noted that police officers will still escort students on case-by-case basis if called. Meneghin introduced a campus safety video clip on "Nighttime Safety" with Rogers suggesting a voice over option to allow visually-impaired individuals the opportunity to learn about the clip.

## V. Other

Matthews reminded on the Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Black Heritage Month Flag Raising, and will send Gardner the information to publicize the month's events once the programs are finalized.

Meneghin updated that Red Hawk News will be evolving, and will be combined with "In the Loop." She also mentioned that there will be an "Academic MSU" email account created for lecture and workshop announcements. And, the Canvas announcement feature used by professors is being fixed to eliminate duplicate messages (via text and then email) to students.

Rogers announced that the General Education Requirement is being reviewed, with additional multiculturalism courses being run.

Rogers mentioned that the display on religious freedom is currently up in Sprague Library until February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Affirmative Action Day display will go up on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to adjourn** –Motion by Cottle; seconded by Phillips-Clark; meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón