

President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
General Meeting
September 26, 2018

Attendance: Cindy Meneghin, Toni Hindsman, Bobby Serrani, Regina Judge, David Vernon, Lucy Candal-Fernandez, Cristina Molinari, Lavone Broxton, Manveer Mann, Ana Gomez, Tina Seaboch, Jeanine Stroh, Denise Phillips-Clark, Jillian Royal, Margaree Coleman-Carter, David Keiser, Myra Shark, Earl Ferrell, Katia Paz Goldfarb, Serafina Genise, Chris Drost, Junea Williams-Edmund, Leonie McDermott, Kal Chipepo, Anthony Mennuti, Jude Uy, Mary Ann Re, Dorothy Rogers, Lori Petrozzello, Sandy Marschall, Chris Cottle, Kayla Pearson, Felicia Hines.
Keith Barrack, Shante Palmer, Elizabeth Gill

I. Welcome

Meneghin called meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Members new and old were introduced and welcomed. Meneghin addressed the commission, to make all aware of the expected confidentiality of the commission. We want all members to feel comfortable to express their opinions and perspectives freely. Everything said at the Commission meeting is confidential, unless it is official.

No minutes were available from the previous meeting.

II. New Business

a. Sponsorship

Chris Cottle made a brief statement on the purpose of sponsorship. Sponsorship assists organizations on campus with event/ program opportunities with funds to be used for refreshments, etc. However, the monies may not be used to pay speakers at any event.

Presently, we have three proposals,

\$250.00 - Latin Caucus –The Carlos M. Ortiz Inaugural Lecture: Celebrating Latinx Counter-narratives: Roots, Strengths, and Success (October 11, 2018)

\$750.00 – EOF, Young Women's Conference, March 2019

\$750.00 – EOF, Boys to Men, November 2018

Meneghin, reminded the Commission that our annual budget is \$5,000 and we spend a large portion of the budget to assist in sponsorship.

Meneghin gave way for Dr. Cole to address the Committee.

III. Dr. Cole's Annual Charge

Dr. Cole stated that "as we live in a complex world she appreciates the work of the PCAAD." She thanked the committee for being humane with all that is going on in the world. Dr. Cole in her address, expressed that we do better than most here at MSU because of the unity and core value of the MSU community than those outside of our Community. Dr. Cole feels strongly on the quality of our exceptional community and acknowledges that more work is needed.

Her message included, hope for the world, where there would be fewer problems and the world would be easier to live in, with less conflicts. We are to keep our focus on the mission of MSU more than ever and to maintain our core values. At MSU we will continue to do the right thing in preparing our students for life for the world, once they leave this community.

Dr. Cole asked for any issues that the commission should address, and a conversation was had on the Office of Social Justice & Diversity to be inclusive in a major way in the work of the Commission.

Dr. Cole introduced Shante Palmer, Director of Government Relations and Keith Barrack, Chief of Staff. She also stated how she is excited about the growth of the Freshman Class this year. The Class reflects an increase in population of 21% of African American students and 34% of Hispanic students. As Dr. Cole continued to express her excitement, she expressed how we are a majority/minority University with a population that reflects everybody. In building understanding among ourselves, we do not focus on sensitivities, we focus on and nurture our strengths. In doing so, our students should go out into the world prepared and feeling that they can withstand anything with a sense of sureness of who they are.

Before leaving, Dr. Cole expressed that she is available to the Commission for any issue if needed.

New Business Continued

Dr. Cole was featured on Fox News on Diversity on College Campuses, the video was shown to the Commission.

IV. Old Business

a. Immigration/DACA Website

Elizabeth Gill has made improvements for the new website.
A conversation was had regarding concerns and questions

b. Lactation Room Website/Signs

Signs are up, and information is on the Website.

c. Budget Manager on Executive Committee

Felicia Hines is the official Budget Manager for the Commission and is also a member of the Executive Committee.

d. Affirmative Action Day

Dorothy Rodgers spoke about Cornell Brooks coming to be our speaker for Affirmative Action Day, hopefully during the Spring Semester (late February or early March).

V. Other

Dorothy Rodgers spoke of upcoming events.

- October 16th – Film Screening- "We the Women of Afghanistan: a silent revolution"-Presentation and Discussion with Nahid Shahalimi
- November 13th – Panel Discussion on toxic waste case that polluted Native American Land.

Update was given by Anthony Mennuti on Sizism and Lactation rooms

Chris Cottle gave an update on an incident that occurred on Campus on the first day of classes with students and the police. The Dean of Students office were instrumental in organizing a Forum upon which all interested parties came together to discuss and make recommendations moving forward. Additional forums will be held in the future.

Motion to Adjourn made by Chris Cottle, seconded by Lori Petrozzello.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm

Respectfully submitted by D. Phillips-Clark