

**President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
General Meeting
January 28, 2015**

Attendance: M. Cascarano, M. Coleman Carter, M. Colon, C. Cottle, J. Cutler, J. Delate, B. Edwards, R. Gano, H. Haines, F. Hines, D. McMorrin, D. Keiser, C. Meneghin, R. Narasimhan, J. Penney, L. Petrozzello, W. Poon, M. Re, C. Reyes-Cuevas, D. Rodak, D. Rogers, T. Seaboch, K. Smith-Washington, N. Vastola, L. Whitaker

I. Welcome:

Meneghin called meeting at 12:10 p.m.

The November 2014 minutes are not available and will approved at a later time.

II. Lactation Rooms

Meneghin updated that the lactation room recommendation was submitted to and was well received by President Cole and VP Bressler. A change in protocol was recommended: the Commission will submit future recommendations to VP Cutler, who will submit them to President Cole for further review. President Cole will then decide who should receive the recommendation for follow-up and/or action. Meneghin informed the members that Ms. Sharon Mahoney, Construction Project Manager, is currently looking for additional locations and will update us when possible. In regards to secured access, it may be possible to use GCal or other scheduling system.

III. Single-Person Bathrooms

Both the new Center for Environmental and Life Sciences and School of Business buildings will have a single-stall bathroom with a changing table.

Edwards updated on the free signage for single-stall bathrooms and will contact Ms. Sharon Mahoney to find out how many single-stall bathrooms we have on campus. There was a brief discussion regarding multi-stall gender inclusive bathrooms. It was noted that having options in the buildings is recommended. A future discussion/forum will be planned.

IV. Accessibility

VP Bressler will be informed of our top three priorities. One concern are the sidewalks which are "scalped" or have "curb cuts" which need to be checked, as some are not smooth and cause a problem for those using a wheelchair. The Commission's standing request for automatic doors to be installed where possible will remain an issue. It was noted that while The Heights are somewhat accessible, MSU follows the minimum requirements set forth in the NJ Barrier Free Code.

The following issues were also discussed:

1. Lot 17 has a sloped walkway which needs to be fixed
2. Area behind University Hall to parking lot on Carlisle Road needs a sidewalk
3. CarPac Diem – Pedestrians often do not look and cross diagonally (Meneghin updated that the Safety Committee is looking into this issue.) It was mentioned that there are not enough police officers available to monitor the crosswalk. Reyes-Cuevas suggested the use of crossing guards, which will be explored.

A discussion was had regarding vehicular access to the inner areas of the campus. Coleman-Carter suggested that Mr. Mike Zanko, Executive Director of Campus Planning, be invited to talk to us regarding traffic issues and other matters. Other suggestions included using a scheduled campus shuttle to bring disabled people to the inner locations of the campus; and using golf carts. Meneghin noted that we have had this issue for a number of years and that there are legal issues with using certain vehicles. It was mentioned that the University has to consider others including alumni, families and other visitors.

V. Invitation to Justice Sotomayor

Meneghin updated that the invitation is no longer going through Senator Menendez's office. Ms. Fatima deCarvalho, Assistant Dean for Student Life, will assist. The student book committee will be reaching out to Justice Sotomayor's publicist. The letter will be updated and be reviewed by VP Pennington and University Counsel. Possible dates for the visit are September 10, September 17 or September 24. It will be an evening program in Memorial Auditorium, which will also be streamed on and off campus.

VI. Affirmative Action Day

Cottle updated that the Executive Committee looked at current issues on social justice and community relations. The plan is to have a panel discussion in late February or early March which will look at issues revolving around race, police, community relations and social justice. Possible panelists include MSU faculty member Jamaal Matthews, Chief Cell and an MSU student of color. Cottle will report back to the Commission in the near future.

VII. Other

Library Display – Members Re, Petrozzello, Rogers and Whitaker have been working on the Library Display, with "Civil Rights" as the overall theme. It will reflect on Affirmative Action, with an educational angle.

There was a brief discussion about a recent University Police email and standard language to use.

Cottle encouraged members to attend the February 2nd flagraising in celebration of African American History Month. The OSAU requested sponsorship of \$250 for its February 28th Cultural Showcase to be used for food and refreshments. The motion was approved.

Edwards encouraged members to attend the Day of Unity “Divas for Diversity” event on February 2nd in Memorial Auditorium and the LGBTQ’s Black Herstory Ball on February 13th in the SC Ballrooms.

Meeting was adjourned – Motion made by Coleman-Carter. Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón