

President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
General Membership Meeting
February 15, 2012

Attendance: E. Abreu, W. Amaya, J. Chern, M. Colón, T. Dean, R. Gano, J. Hain, J. Harris, A. Jeffers, L. Jenkins, L. Johns, R. Jones, D. Keiser, C. Matteis, D. McMorrin, C. Meneghin, J. Mercedes, B. Milton, D. Phillips-Clark, M. Re, R. Royal, T. Seaboch, K. Smith, L. Smith, L. Whitaker, R. Williams, R. Young

I. Welcome:

Meneghin called meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Re made a motion that the January 2012 minutes be approved; Williams seconded. The January 2012 minutes were approved.

II. Ongoing

a. Affirmative Action Day on March 20th

Meneghin reviewed details for the event. There will be a reading of the proclamation, however there will not be a flag raising. Both Senator Greenstein and Assemblywoman Huttel will be attending. The agenda items will be the Anti-Bullying law, which is currently being questioned on the funding issue, and Senator's Greenstein's workplace bullying legislation, which is currently being reviewed in the Legislature. The event will not be held in the UN Conference Center, and has been relocated to University Hall 1070, which holds 200 people. Meneghin has spoken to Ms. Gaines of Government Relations regarding the protocol, flags, and invitation to politicians. President Cole will introduce the speakers and will ask them to speak on their legislations and what they expect to accomplish. There will be a handout available to attendees after the presentation to use in their conversation within their constituent group(s). If the budget allows, the program will be videotaped, however, there will not be a live stream. Meneghin asked that members get back to her on the number of people attending from each constituent group. Menesghin will look into a possible overflow room as suggested.

III. Presentation

Kellen Smith presented on the new financial aid changes which will impact students' aid including grants and loans. The FAFSA form is now completed electronically only. The verification process will impact approximately 3,000 MSU students. Students will need to receive an IRS tax transcript, which takes about 4 to 6 weeks. There are students who will not be eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool.

In the past, students could submit their 1040 form to the Financial Aid Office, however, this is no longer acceptable. The delay in receiving the tax transcript may result in deregistration, late fees and eligibility for housing. In regards to

Satisfactory Academic Progress, students must adhere to the July deadline or they will lose financial aid for the entire academic year, including Summer. Additionally, no late appeals will be accepted. Smith requested that students be reminded to check WESS over the Summer, to submit their documents in a timely manner, and to use the IRS Data Retrieval tool to expedite the financial aid processing.

IV. New Business

Abreu updated on the recent bias incidents. There have been six incidents on campus in the last 2 weeks. There were two arrests made, it is suspected that the students themselves perpetrated the incident. Conversations continue on campus. It was noted that unless someone in the community comes forward and states that they themselves felt targeted, the incident is not treated as a bias crime.

Harris informed the Commission that Dr. Collins, a Psychology Professor, will be available for students who need someone to talk to. The SGA is looking to create a collaboration with the Bias Response Task Force in order to have a student presence. Harris commented that it is important to note that every reported incident will be taken seriously and will be investigated. Meneghin stated that MSU's message is being communicated in the media, and on the web. MSU does not support or condone these incidents, that we stand together, and that we have no tolerance on this. Meneghin reminded the membership that each of us is a spokesperson and should be prepared to respond to those who may have a question about what is going on at MSU. Each of us need to communicate our message, and that we must stand as a community against these actions. Our civility statements will be emailed when necessary.

V. Standing Committees

AAEO

Meeting with University Police.

Harris updated the Commission. The meeting was well received, and these conversations will be expanded. University Police explained the protocol police officers must follow. It was noted that MSU has a very good police group. An annual meeting is being explored, where groups would come together to "Get to Know Your MSU Police." It is requested that the PCAEOD support this.

Diversity

The committee did not report.

Recruitment and Retention

Jeffers reported that the Committee received data from Bryan Terry's office, and was awaiting data from B. Milton. The Committee hopes to meet soon to review the data, and report back to the Executive Committee.

Jeffers also reported that the PhD Project is expanding its services to include scholarships for students, as well as opportunities for faculty members, including research opportunities with the military programs. Meneghin suggested creating a news item for the PhD Project with a brief description and updates. It was mentioned that faculty positions can be posted to the PhD Project's site.

The Committee will send the collected data prior to the March meeting.

Mentoring

On "Thank Your Mentor Day," 56 people used the e-cards, with a total of 88 e-cards sent.

VI. Announcements

The Commission will be supporting the Latino/a Caucus lecture featuring Mirta Ojito, with a \$200 contribution.

Meneghin welcomed Jose Mercedes, who will represent the Veterans.

VII. Other

An issue was brought up regarding the maintenance's department use of fingerprint time clock technology. Currently, there is only one group of individuals using this new system, and no other unions have been requested to utilize it. Milton will follow-up on this issue.

VIII. Johns motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Phillips-Clark; Meeting Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón