

President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
October 17, 2012

Attendance: M. Cascarano, J. Chern, M. Coleman Carter, M. Colón, I. Cordero, D. Davis, C. Drost, R. Gano, A. Gomez, D. Harris, A. Jeffers, L. Jenkins, L. Johns, R. Jones, P. Kirby, D. Leigh, L. Lemley, C. Meneghin, B. Milton, J. Penney, B. Peterson, D. Phillips-Clark, W. Poon, D. Rodak, R. Royal, T. Seaboch, L. Smith, N. Tate, L. Whitaker

I. Welcome:

Meneghin called meeting at 12:05 p.m. New members were welcomed.

Johns made a motion that the September 2012 minutes be approved; Re seconded. The September 2012 minutes were approved.

II. Standing Committee Reports

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

The Committee has not meet and did not report.

Diversity

The Committee reported on the success of The Combat Paper and thanked The Commission of its \$250 sponsorship. A flyer was distributed on a joint program between the Newman Center and the Office of Veteran Services on October 30th featuring Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Pawlikowski. The Commission was asked for sponsorship by participating in the event.

Mentoring

The Committee has not met. Work continues with the CWA focus groups.

Recruitment and Retention

The Committee has not met. Dr. Bryan Terry and Dr. Alyson Straker-Banks of Enrollment and Student Academic Services have been invited to the November meeting to update to update on matters including student retention rates, affordability concerns and current initiatives.

III. New Business

Commission Blog

Penney and Peterson have coordinated the new blog, with the LASO and The Combat Paper projects added. Members are encouraged to submit submissions and

contributions to the blog by sending an email with the link . The blog will be used to present issues and activities that the Commission is supporting or working on. It was suggested that a news item be added in order to link from social media. A second suggestion was to include a couple of sentences with each submission and photos is available. Meneghin thanked Penney, Peterson and Ms. Alex Thelin for their work on the blog.

Accessibility Priorities

VP Bressler has requested for a new list of the top three priorities by the end of November. One of the priorities brought forward last year by the Commission was the need for changing tables. Meneghin will resend that proposal to Bressler.

Affirmative Action Day

A date in February, March or April will be confirmed, with initial preparations in place. This year's theme will center on "Balancing Religious Freedom and Freedom of Speech." It will be a panel discussion. Members are encouraged to begin spreading the word about the event, and inform Meneghin if a large group/class will be invited. The location will be University Hall 1070, which seats 200 people. Meneghin updated that Dr. Rogers, Chair of the Philosophy and Religion Department, has agreed to participate. The Campus Ministry will also have representation. The panel will consist of student and faculty representatives. The programs will have a Q&A component, with lots of dialogue expected. A suggestion was made to have the questions available ahead of time, and that they cover a range of areas. Another suggestion was to consider the use of technology to enhance the experience by using Smartphones to view the program, etc. The ADP Center was suggested as a good resource for technical support.

Lactation Room

An update was presented. While rooms 107 & 109 of Webster Hall have been designated, a concern on the appearance was presented. The rooms lack the proper furniture. Abreu is working with Residential Education on this matter. Other issues include security and heat in the building, which will be investigated.

IV. Other

Smith distributed information on the Mandela Awards for Outstanding Leadership, which are presented during Diversity Week. Nominations are due by November 2nd. An email will be sent to the Commission with additional information.

Meneghin reminded that everyone should be signed up to a sub-committee.

Cascarano reported on the "Students in Recovery" population, with concern that our resources are not able to fully assist these students. Smith updated that these

students are covered under the ADA as long as they are not using. Both will meet to discuss further.

- V. Lemley motioned to adjourn the meeting; Rodak seconded; Meeting Adjourned at 12:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón