

President's Commission on Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity and Diversity
General Meeting
March 20, 2019

Attendance: L. Broxton, L. Candal Fernandez, M. Cascarano, M. Colon, C. Cottle, F. deCarvalho, C. Drost, E. Farrell, A. Gomez, F. Hines, S. Marschall, C. Meneghin, A. Mennuti, E. Oliveira, K. Paz Goldfarb, L. Petrozzello, D. Phillips-Clark, C. Reyes-Cuevas, T. Seaboch, B. Serrani, J. Stroh, R. Swann-Jackson, J. Uy, J. Williams-Edmund

Guest: Captain Kieran Barrett

I. Welcome:

Meneghin called meeting at 12:10 pm

Approval of January 30, 2019 minutes: Motion by Cottle to approve; seconded by Goldfarb. January 2019 Minutes approved with amendment (add Phillips-Clark to attendance)

II. New Business

a. Police Body Cams

University Police Captain Kieran Barrett provided an overview of the new body cameras officers are wearing on campus. He explained that the reason it is happening is because many police departments in the State and nationally use the cameras. The decision was made after conducting a long research process. University Police also waited until the technology was at a point where MSU could handle the necessary data, storage capabilities as well as the finances for the equipment. Cpt. Barrett explained the importance of transparency and that the cameras will not replace the police office. The goal is to protect the individual as well as the officer. He emphasized that the camera will not be able to catch everything during a situation. It is a tool to record time, and that privacy is important. He explained that every officer is assigned a camera which records in 30 seconds loops once it is started. The recordings will be downloaded back at headquarters and saved as evidence for the case. He expects that most police involved actions will be recorded. The rules police officers follow are established by the Attorney General's Office. Individuals who want a copy of the record will need to request the release of the video from the prosecutor's office. He continued to emphasize that privacy is important and needs to be considered before the release of any video.

Cpt. Barrett responded to several questions. Some of his responses/clarifications included:

A police officer does not have to actively tell an individual that they are being recorded. There is no expectation of privacy when law enforcement is involved.

An individual can ask a police officer to have the camera be turned on.

University Police officers have met with groups around campus, including students wanting to discuss the body cameras. An email was sent to the campus community before the cameras were implemented, and information is posted on the University Police website.

The goal is to maintain integrity and trust with the campus community when it comes to preserving records.

There are checks and balances within the University Police headquarters and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Sanctions are possible against police officers who use the body camera in a non-police involved situation, for instance.

Campus police are not able to erase, change or edit videos.

After 30 days, the stored information is redacted.

b. Sponsorship

Cottle updated that there were no new recent requests. The Commission has spent \$3,450 spent so far in sponsorship this year.

c. Membership

Phillips-Clark asked members whose term is up to let her know if he/she will be continuing or if there will be a new member from his/her constituency.

Executive Committee

There were no new self-nominations or nominations submitted in response to Phillips-Clark's email. The nomination process will be open for one additional week.

III. Old Business

a. Cornell Brooks

Rogers was thanked for her efforts in bringing Cornell Brooks to MSU. There are only 17 RSVPs via Hawk Sync. A few members mentioned they encountered a technical issue when trying to register. Meneghin encouraged members to contact her to RSVP since we need to fill the seats, and for members to reach out to their classes and student reps to attend.

Meneghin will ask University Communications to send out the announcement to the local community and to connect with alumni. She asked members to come up with some initial questions. There will be hand held mics available for the audience and the presentation will be recorded with a still camera for submission

to Sprague Library. There is a \$100 fee for tech support for the event. Meneghin and Rogers will work on getting a gift for Mr. Brooks from the bookstore.

b. World's Fair

Member Re was thanked for once again getting the Nutella for distribution at World's Fair Day on April 25th and for the Commission's Appreciation Day. Meneghin asked for volunteers for the table on April 25th. She thanked the Residence Life staff for paying for the bags.

c. Power & Privilege

Strayhorn updated that he Power & Privilege Committee met on February 19th and have three initiatives:

- Campus education for the campus community by offering workshops and presentations for faculty, staff and students

- Training for faculty by collaborating with the Provost's Office and Human Resources on their work regarding implicit bias training or other training.

- Seeking mandatory training or lessons for new student experience classes
A suggestion was made for him to contact University College staff since that office is currently reviewing changes to the New Student Experience courses.

IV. Other

Meneghin reminded that Appreciation Day is on April 17th. Funding toward the cost of food is requested.

Reyes-Cuevas thanked the Commission for the Latina Day sponsorship.

Rogers and Strayhorn planned a discussion and vigil on the New Zealand tragedy on March 21st.

Strayhorn reminded that the Social Justice Conference is on Friday, March 22nd and asked members to register if planning to attend.

Meneghin encouraged members to attend the Affirmative Action Day program on March 27th and to attend World Fair's Day.

Goldfarb suggested open conversations regarding DACA students.

Motion to adjourn – Motion by Swann-Jackson; seconded by Hines; Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by M. Colón

