



MINUTES

LSUA Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee

1/26/2021 8:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Dr. Cynthia Thomas & Sheila Hudson

In Attendance

Dr. Paul Coreil, Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Abbey Bain, Dr. Haywood Joiner, Dr. Shonu Nangia, Dr. Jessica Ringo, Dr. Cynthia Thomas, Sheila Hudson, Donald Collins, Daniel Manuel, Monica Aguilera, Destiny Harrison, Bryan Jackson, Chancey Slider

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM

New Committee Member Introductions

Chief Donald Collins and Bryan Jackson introduced themselves as new staff and student representatives on the committee.

Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Position

The Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position was advertised over the winter break and we have quite a few candidates that applied. Many of them are exceptionally qualified and range from many different backgrounds. Last week, we narrowed down the pool of 20-30 to about ten candidates and we are working on scheduling the first round Zoom interviews.

Black History Month Planning Discussion:

Black History Month is coming up in February. The annual Black History Month Luncheon has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we still want to recognize and observe this monumental celebration and the positive impacts and contributions that African Americans have made in this area and throughout history. We have been brainstorming ideas to host safe events and are proposing that we recognize local African American trail blazers in our community on our university Facebook page by having "Trailblazer Tuesdays" to recognize local leaders. We plan to highlight accomplishments and achievements of local trailblazers from our campus and community in order to inspire others to follow their paths and be trailblazers. At the end of February, we want to plant a tree on campus as an inspirational symbol of the roots that Africans have made for our country, community, and campus. We also would like to highlight student and community organizations that have been trailblazers. Suggestions for individuals' and organizational recognitions should be submitted to Sheila or Dr. Thomas. The committee gave great feedback in regards to the idea for virtual recognitions and agree that continuous communication throughout the month and focus on students on student organizations will be very insightful and impactful. March is International Women's Month and we need to be looking ahead about planning for events that also recognize contributions made by women leaders on campus and in our community.

Ideally, we would like to have something every month. Juneteenth is also another very important recognition coming up that we need to begin planning for.

Student Survey Review:

The committee reviewed the proposed draft of the student survey and made some minor changes and additions for clarity and opportunities for more detailed feedback. We hope to send the survey to students in about two weeks. Dual enrollment students will be excluded from the list of survey takers since they are minors and may need parental consent to complete the survey. The committee suggested that the SGA send the survey out to students instead of administration so that students feel more comfortable responding.

Staff Survey Review:

The committee reviewed the faculty & staff survey current responses and feedback. About 107 responses have been submitted so far. The committee discussed some of the strengths and weaknesses reflected in the responses. Dr. Thomas will be sending the specific feedback and survey results to Dr. Coreil for an in-depth review. We will continue to collect and review data in order to develop goals and strategies for diversity and inclusion improvements and to continue developing our roadmap.

Respectfully submitted by Chancey Slider

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 23rd.
