



MINUTES

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Leadership Team

02/15/2022 9:00 AM | *Meeting called to order by* Ms. Connie Cooper

In Attendance

Chair Connie Cooper, Abbey Bain, Elizabeth Beard, Lynette Burlew, Nina Cox, Shelly Gill, Destiny Harrison, Sheila Hudson, Bryan Jackson, Haywood Joiner, Daniel Manuel, Jessica Ringo, Rafael Romero, John Rowan, Deron Thaxton, and Mary B. Trueting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM

Welcome

- Connie thanks everyone for attending.
- Connie reminds the Team that moving forward meetings will be open with a public forum occurring at the end of future meetings.

Current Objectives

- Connie establishes a new Charter Committee. Dr. Mary Trueting will head the committee with the aid of Bryan Jackson. The committee will oversee the creation of a document outlining the mission, purpose, scope and framework of the Leadership Team.
- Connie and Deron Thaxton are following up on the Bias Reporting Tool.
- The Team decides to create various visuals that will go in high traffic areas of campus that honor 'trail-blazing' women for Women's History Month. Ideas for places include the library lobby and Mulder Hall lobby. Daniel Manuel will oversee the process.
- Rafael Romero suggests doing a 'Taco Tuesday,' meal event for Hispanic Heritage Month. He also put forward having a Multicultural Festival. Nina Cox recalls that there was a Multicultural Committee once upon a time that oversaw the festival. John Rowan states that the committee was comprised of two students, Nina, and faculty members Matthew Stokes and Min Wu. Nina wants to reinstate the committee and have the festival in the fall. She advocates for food and having a way of showing off cultural traditions and practices. Destiny mentions splitting up the potluck dishes by continent, so that there can be either be a person or a laminated sheet of paper explaining key components of the dish and its cultural significance. Nina includes that visitors can be given a 'passport,' which encourages them to visit more areas and possibly give prizes based on that.
- Daniel is reconfiguring Safe Space Trainings. The current idea is to break the training up into four one-hour sessions. The projected date for the training to be conducted is April.
- Connie revisits doing The Kickback for Black History Month. The time is still to be determined, but it will be on the twenty-fourth of February. The kickback will have food, games, black history trivia, a DJ, and line dancing.
- Sheila Hudson inquires about a Juneteenth event. Connie mentions the MLK Luncheon that

was done annually in the past and suggests to do the luncheon on that day. Also, there is the possibility to do something like last summer, where there was a barbeque on the Quad with speakers and poetry.

- Connie asks the Team about ideas for an event that encourages all students, no matter their intersection, to come together. Romero suggests a Prayer Day, where the student body will be blessed. The suggestion of doing a Unity Day also comes up. Destiny Harrison proposes doing Unity Day at the end or at the beginning of the academic school year. Elizabeth Beard includes that the Unity Days occurring across the country include participants wearing orange and that it occurs in October. Abbey Bain, Rafael, and Sheila bring up doing a potluck and inviting the community. Sheila also proposes incorporating the Peace Pole in the Quad into Unity Day.

Meeting Conclusion

- Connie reminded the team that feedback is important and thanked the team again for being present.

Respectfully submitted by Destiny Harrison.

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 22.**
