Presidential Task Force for Opportunity and Equity

July 22, 2021

Minutes


• Updates – General Burgess
  o New leadership for the Presidential Task Force
    ▪ Dr. Joffery Gaymon and Dr. JoEllen Sefton are the new co-chairs
  o New member: Mrs. Scott Bishop, University Outreach
  o New Graduate Students: Alexicia Richardson and Sedighe Zamani Roodsari

• Diversity Statement – Dr. Taffye Clayton
  o Dr. Clayton discussed the diversity statement that the task force subcommittee created and one created by a strategic communications consultant, who is working with the university.
  o Clayton said the committee needs to vote on which statement the task force wants to go with and said there are benefits to both statements.
  o It was agreed upon that a Qualtrics survey would be sent to committee members with the language from both statements so that they may vote on which statement to recommend to the university.

Equity & Social Justice Center

Chair: Dr. Melody Russell

Members: Katrina Akande, Michael Bennett, Michael Brown, Taffye Clayton, Kevin Coonrod, Robin Jaffe, Kimberly Mulligan, Jared Russell, Jailin Sanders, Joellen Sefton, Kamden Strunk, Giovanna Summerfield & Gretchen Van Valkenburg

• Our proposal has been sent to General Burgess.
• It was stated that our focus on the African American/Black institute should remain the focus.
• During the next meeting we will discuss next steps for the Institute Subcommittee.
Graduate Student Subcommittee

Chairs: George Flowers and Jared Russell

Members: Cheryl Seals, Bridgett King, Alan Wilson, Vinicia Biancardi, Astin Cole, Brian Cornish, Dustin Johnson, Bridgett King, Ebony Robinson, Cheryl Seals, Aariyan Tooley and Alan Wilson

- Reviewed minutes and discussions from previous meeting (June 8th, 2021)
- Action Step: Continue to reach out to Student Financial Services to get requested data (see previous meeting notes)
- Action Step: Added 3 questions to survey relevant to student mental health services (accessibility, representation of staff, impact)
- Action Step: Considering adding questions about sense of belonging, community, etc.
- Action Step: Ensure all members have access to document repository
- Discussion: How best to cluster questions around variables such as degree program, demographics, etc.
- Committee submitted suggestions, revisions, etc. for survey. Discussed in meeting
- Discussion: Including (or not) students from AUM who are in joint programs (leaning towards not including students)
- Action Step: Committee will review survey and provide comments
- Action Step: Finalize survey AND pilot with students