



The Chancellor's Commission for LGBT People

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2021

Attendance: Dr. Mitsunori Misawa, Addie Welch, Tom Cervone, Jeremy Mobley, Christa Gloster, Will Martinez, Elizabeth Merrill, Bonnie Johnson, Ronda Wright, Corinne Tandy, Jordan Murphy, Jordan Thomas Prewitt, Joseph Winberry, Tammy Renalds, Mary Lucal, Dr. Janelle Coleman, Kaitlin Desselle, Jill Malolepszy, Stephanie Langley, Jose Lee-Perez, Laura Bryant, Rob Morris, Heather Hall, Njyhalo Pavati, Sarah Browning, Shawn Spurgeon, Casey Darby, Kristen Gonzalez, Matt Blaylock, Merrill Walker, Yasja Hemmings, Lori Smith, Rachel Carretta

- I. Introduction
 - A. Dr. Misawa called the meeting to order and welcomed all Commission members to the meeting.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Meeting minutes from the December 7th meeting were approved.
- III. Updates from the Chair
 - A. Dr. Misawa informed the Commission about a December meeting with Vice Chancellor's Small's office, himself, and the Pride Center on how to better assist the Pride Center. The Pride Center will be selecting a Faculty Fellow to help them conduct educational and campus outreach opportunities and advocate for Safe Zone training.
 - B. Dr. Misawa discussed several upcoming Commission-sponsored workshops through TLI and an upcoming reading group for faculty and graduate students. The workshops will focus on making our campus a more inclusive community.
 - C. Dr. Coleman talked about the decision that the Campus Climate Survey will be postponed to next year due to Covid and concerns over protecting the privacy of information shared by individuals in marginalized groups. The postponement will give the chance for colleges to implement Diversity Action Plans that they have developed this year. Dr. Misawa proposed a potential subcommittee for Equity and Climate to help prepare for that survey going out next year.
 - D. Dr. Misawa shared that the Commission will collaborate with the Commission for Blacks for some of their events during Black History Month and Commission for Women during Women's History month in March.
 - E. Dr. Misawa went into more information about the upcoming TLI-Commission-sponsored workshops through TLI:
 1. Workshop Bullying: February 9

2. Application of Workplace Bullying: April 6th at 1pm
 3. Trauma-responsive teaching- February 16th
 4. Trauma-based pedagogy- April 13th
 - a) Hosted with Title IX
 5. Upcoming March workshop through the Faculty Senate Group about emotional labor
- F. Dr. Misawa asked Commission members to consider who among Commission members will lead the Commission next year as the Co-Chairs. This will be discussed in more detail in the March and April meetings.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

- A. Communications and Alumni:
 1. No updates at this time. Still in the process of planning a social, will hopefully have some more firm plans for the next meeting.
- B. Equity and Climate
 1. No updates at this time.
- C. Membership and Awards
 1. The committee has accepted award nominations for the LGBT student advocate and ally awards for the spring Chancellor's Honors Banquet. There were 4 nominations for the faculty/staff ally award and 6 nominations for the student advocate award . The committee will go through the nominations and pick the winners.
- D. Transgender and Non-Binary Issues
 1. Bonnie Johnson updated that the committee is continuing their LLC work and is preparing to create a proposal and that she met with Jeremy Mobley to partner with The Pride Center and plan events.
- E. Updates from other Groups
 1. CFD: The Commission for Disability Co-Chairs will meet with Dr. Coleman to finalize their goals for the next year which center around information gathering. They have identified subcommittees and look forward to partnering with Commissions to host events.
 2. CFW: No updates at this time.
 3. CFB: Dr. Coleman urged members to check the event calendar to support events during Black History Month. Dr. Coleman shared that they hosted a wonderful MLK event and panel discussion to continue his legacy. CFD is continuing to look for collaborations and conducting a study looking at retention rate for black faculty.
 4. Pride Center: Bonnie Johnson shared an upcoming event, Dr. E. Patrick Johnson's lecture "Southern (Dis)Comfort: Homosexuality in the Black South" happening next Wed, February 10, 2021 at 6pm-7:30pm (Dr. EeRegister at: tiny.utk.edu/epjohnson)
 5. Dr. Coleman expressed appreciation for the Commission and informed members about future participation in creating a State of Diversity Report

6. Tom Cervone shared that there were 15 applicants for the inaugural Marva Rudolph Scholarship and shared from the Exempt Staff Council that there will be a new category for diversity and inclusion included in staff performance reviews for 2021. Tom and Dr. Coleman urged members that everybody should be having DEI-focused conversations in their department and be intentional in executing the Diversity Action Plans.
- V. Dr. Misawa divided members into breakout groups to discuss and create actionable ideas to accompany the priorities that will be sent to the Chancellor.
- VI. **The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 1st at noon.**