



## **The Chancellor's Commission for LGBT People**

### *Meeting Minutes*

March 1, 2021

Attendance: Dr. Mitsunori Misawa, Dr. Lisa Yamagata-Lynch, Addie Welch, Tom Cervone, Jeremy Gilbert, Laura Bryant, Kristen Gonzalez, Ronda Wright, Jill Malolepszy, Tyler Lewelling, Will Martinez, Stephanie Langley, Casey Darby, Matt Blaylock, Christa Gloster, Tammy Renalds, Corinne Tandy, Joseph Winberry, Judi Gibbons, Sarah Browning, Diane Kelley, Kristen Gonzalez, Skye Lee, Merrill Walker, Kelley Kain, Janelle Coleman, Jordan Murphy, Kristen Desselle, Yasja Hemmings, Lori Smith, Rachel Carretta, Kim McCulloch

- I. Introduction
  - A. Dr. Misawa welcomed Commission members to the meeting.
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Meeting minutes were approved from the February 1st meeting.
- III. Updates from the Chair
  - A. Collaborations with Other Commissions
    1. Dr. Misawa discussed his working with TLI to work to form a reading group for faculty and staff with more information coming soon.
    2. Dr. Misawa informed Commission members about two financial contributions the Commission has made
      - a) The Commission financially contributed \$500 to the Rethinking Reentry Symposium hosted by the Tennessee Journal for Race, Gender, and Social Justice ft. Cyntoia Brown.
      - b) The Commission is also contributing \$800 to the upcoming Pride Center event for Transgender Day of Visabilitiy on March 31st.
    3. Dr. Misawa discussed the workshop he led on Trauma-Responsive Teaching and discussions he's had with The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor Small's office around the priorities of the Commission.
  - B. Workshops
    1. Dr. Misawa discussed upcoming workshops about academic bullying (April 6th) and trauma-based pedagogy for sexual assault survivors (April 13th).
  - C. Events
    1. Dr. Misawa informed the group of two upcoming events
      - a) Transgender Day of Visibility- March 31st 4pm-5pm via Zoom
      - b) Faculty Roundtable about being an ally- March 3rd 12-1 pm Zoom

#### IV. Subcommittee Updates

##### A. Communications and Alumni

1. Tyler Lewelling informed the group that the committee met a few weeks ago and that they are coalescing updated resources that will be published on the website. The committee has also begun the brainstorming process of hosting a virtual event in collaboration with the Membership and Awards subcommittee when the membership application for next year goes live.

##### B. Equity and Climate

1. No updates at this time

##### C. Membership and Awards

1. The committee updated the group that the LGBT Advocate student and faculty/staff award recipients have been submitted to Tyger a few weeks prior. Letters will be sent to all nominees once award winners have been notified.

##### D. Transgender and Non-Binary Issues

1. The committee is still moving forward with working on LLC and have planned several info gathering sessions with students. Staff members for Housing are enthusiastic about the Commission putting the proposal through. The committee still plans to put forth the proposal this semester for consideration.

##### E. Updates from other Groups

1. Commission for Disability Co-Chair Jill Malolepszy plugged their inaugural event on March 23rd with speaker and disability advocate Haben Girma.
2. The Pride Center advertised their upcoming event on March 31st with speaker Torrin Greathouse. They also advertised their annual Lavender graduation on April 21st.
3. Tom Cerevone updated the Commission that the Exempt Staff Council is continuing to discuss and navigate ongoing issues and the shift to online performance reviews. The Council was visited by the Chancellor and updated about Covid case counts, commencement, compensation.
4. Dr. Coleman updated the Commission about two dorm halls being renamed after two influential African American Vol community members. She also shared that the inaugural Marva Rudolph Scholarship, a wonderful advocate, received great support and over \$47,000 in scholarship money was awarded. She reported that DDE will be partnering with local high school, Austin East in lieu of recent events and that the our Diversity Action Plan website is almost ready to launch.
5. Dr. Misawa confirmed that membership applications for next year will be ready soon and encouraged members to reapply for Commission membership and consider applying to be a Co-Chair of the Commission

#### V. Dr. Lisa Yamagata-Lynch- Omsbuds Person (insert website information)

- A. Dr. Misawa introduced Dr. Lisa Yamagata-Lynch and briefly shared the broad scope of her role as the University Ombuds Services
- B. Dr. Yamagata-Lynch shared a video from International Ombudsman Association

- C. She shared data about case numbers from the previous academic year and reported that the majority of her visitors were faculty who came to advocate for graduate students. While she doesn't frequently work with undergraduate students, she often refers them to services that are more tailored for their needs. Provide information to the organization but confidential and anonymous. .
- D. Dr. Yamagata-Lynch discussed what the Organizational Ombuds does at UT
  - 1. Provide safe space for visitors at UTK. Engage in problem solving and make empowered decisions about issues at UT.
  - 2. Provide feedback to organizational leaders regarding systemic trends and issues.
- E. Dr. Yamagata-Lynch discussed what people do when they seek out her services.
  - 1. Visitors are looking for problem solving and situational analysis and assessment
  - 2. Dr. Yamagata-Lynch can ask questions to departments on behalf of graduate students or faculty and can do individualized dispute resolution among parties
- F. Visitors came to talk to Dr. Yamagata-Lynch about
  - 1. Policy Clarification/Accessing Resources
  - 2. Workplace Communication
  - 3. Providing Support to Others
  - 4. Leadership Support Services
    - a) Dr. Yamagata-Lynch offers executive and leadership coaching and other professional development workshops
- G. The highlights of the IOA Code of Ethics that Dr. Yamagata-Lynch follows in her work are
  - 1. Independence, Impartiality, Confidentiality (Only broken in the imminent threat of harm), and Informality
    - a) Her office is not a formal office of notice. Won't be a record or be counted as a complaint
    - b) She is not a mandated Title IX reporter
- H. Dr. Yamagata-Lynch's Contact Information
  - 1. <https://ombuds.utk.edu/>
  - 2. [lisayl@utk.edu](mailto:lisayl@utk.edu)
    - a) E-mail is not confidential
  - 3. Call: 865-974-6273
  - 4. Office Location: Dunford 2423
- I. Dr. Misawa thanked Dr. Lisa Yamagata Lynch for attending and adjourned the meeting
- J. **The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 5th at noon.**