



3-2011

Meeting Minutes - March 2011

Commission for Blacks

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting March 2, 2011

Call to Order: Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

In Attendance: Camille Hall, Lynn Sacco, Ron Treway, Ernest Brother, Wanda Costen, Dawn Duke, Vern Granger, Sekeenia Haynes, Charles Rogers, Jamia Stokes, Meisha Thomas, Rosa Thomas, Jonathan Kinnard

Guests: Kynita Stringer-Stanback (Library), Amit Patel (EEO Investigator, OED), and Dr. Sarah Gardial (Vice Provost)

1. Review of February minutes: After review, the February minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Chair: The Chair has not met with Chancellor Cheek .

The Community Forum will be held Wednesday, March 3, 2011 and everyone is invited to come out and be a part of the discussion.

Planning for the Diverse Faculty Mentoring Program is underway; the first workshop will take place on September 30, 2011. The first issue of the BLACK@UT newsletter will be released mid-April. All commissioners are invited to submit articles per guidelines.

3. Awards Committee: The committee will meet and select recipients for the Hardy G. Liston and Gene Mitchell Gray awards. This Information will be forwarded to the Chair.

Lynn Sacco commented on the inappropriate language used on nomination applications. Some of the nominee's were referred to as having "high morals" or being "lady like." Terms such as this, do not describe why the Commission should offer an award to any individual. It was suggested that language usage be added to the protocol and as well as notification to nominators that a resume is not sufficient.

4. Faculty/Student Concerns Committee: The Faculty Senate approved the new budgeting plan. The Senate is also working on developing a more uniformed diversity/ inclusion statement across campus and across colleges

Some suggested that changes be made to the code of conduct (Hilltopics) to increase civility.

One final suggestion was that forms on campus needed to be consistent, but it was recognized that some of the forms are based on federal reporting.

The students felt the need for more student, faculty, and staff interactions within the commission in order to formulate more of an impact outside of the commission. Students on campus do not understand the benefits of the Commission and how it serves them.

5. Community Outreach Committee: The Spring Community Forum will take place at 6:30pm on March 3, 2011 in the Toyota Auditorium of the Howard Baker Center.

6. Relationship with BFSA: There was discussion regarding the role/responsibilities of BFSA and the CFB. The Commission for Black is an advisory council to the Chancellor's Office regarding faculty, staff and students. Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), is an organization separate from the university administration and function primary as voice for Black faculty and staff. Members of the Commission are appointed members, while members of BFSA are not.

A motion was made and approved to recommend the Chair become an ex-officio member of BFSAs ; thus serving as a liaison to UTK administration.

7. Membership: The Commission will develop a membership form and solicit members (there is a vacant position for a non-exempt staff).

8. Announcements: Dr. Sarah Gardial discuss leadership and training opportunities available, The majority of the leadership opportunities are available to the public and don't require "nominations", unlike SACs leadership. Generally, announcements are distributed to deans and department heads with request for nominations and/or eligibility criteria.

One of the opportunities UT has for leadership development is the Leadership Institute, an offsite development program available to those nominated by another leader, and approved by the Chancellor and President. For more details see

<http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/leadership/>. There are also a number of online training courses on leadership available to faculty and staff

at http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/eod/skillsoft_courses.html.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57pm