Meeting Minutes - October 2010

Commission for Blacks

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting October 6, 2010

Call to Order: Dr. Hall called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

In Attendance: Mariah Benimon (Undergraduate Student Representative), Ernest Brothers (The Graduate School), Sekeenia Haynes (Program for Excellence & Equity in Research (PEER)), J. Camille Hall (Chair), Joann Jeter (Career Services), Ferlin McGaskey (Graduate Assistant), Valuri Reid (Athletics), Charles Rogers (Community Representative), Charles Houston (Black Faculty and Staff Association), Theotis, Robinson (Equity and Diversity [System], )Lynn Sacco (History LGBT)

Additional Guests: Jonathan Kinnard, Avery Howard, Chicara Mayes, Kevin Seymour, Biaunca King, Toby Boulet (Faculty Senate

1. Welcome: Dr. Hall welcomed everyone.
2. Review of September minutes: After review, the September minutes were approved without change(s).
3. Report from the Chair: Dr. Hall reported on recent communications with the Chancellor and information from Fall Faculty meeting. She discussed concerns about low attendance of Black faculty at the meeting. Encouraged faculty, staff, and students to participate in forums and other activities related to presidential search.

4. Discussion of Civility Task Force Report: The membership discussed and made several recommendations regarding the report. Key points and questions were
   - Civility and the repercussions for not engaging in civil behavior needed to be clearly defined
   - Accountability needed to built into how the program is implemented
   - What role will diversity play in discussions of civility
   - What will be the mechanism for determining whether someone has engaged in uncivil behavior and measuring the level of severity

5. Community Forum: Charles Rogers reported on the progress of the forum. Charles met with John Sibley at the Literacy Imperative to discuss all logistical concerns. In addition, he indicated that program would include a discussion of community concerns and issues, a raffle of campus and community products and services, and a presentation of various informational materials and souvenirs from the University.

7. Update/ Introduction of Communication Tools: Ferlin McGaskey reported on the various communication tools that the commission is using to reach and facilitate discussion of the issues relevant to its constituents. In addition to the webpage [http://web.utk.edu/~cfb], the commission also has a Facebook page [http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Knoxville-TN/The-University-of-Tennessee-Commission-for-Blacks/157749534238239], and can be followed on Twitter [http://twitter.com/COMMBLKS]. In addition, we also have a Blackboard site. All commissioners will be added as users/participants.
7. Announcements: Mariah Benimon reported and passed out information she gathered at the recent program sponsored by the Commission for LGBT People on reporting bias incidences. Jonathan discussed highlights of the UTK-NAACP mixer for undergraduate, faculty, and staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm