

**Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
Monday, December 6, 2004**

Minutes

Present: Edd Sewell, Pat Hyer, Marilyn Kershaw, Devi Gnyawali, Linda Woodard, Jeff Mann, Laura Hickerson, Ben Dixon, Ray Plaza, Jean Brickey, Susan Willis-Walton, Michael Goode, Kim Beisecker, Hayward Farrar, Cynthia Bonner, David Travis, Jon Wooge, Susanna Rinehart, LaChelle Waller, Maxine Lyons, Susan Angle (for Lois Berg)

Absent: Hassan Aref, Darleen Baker, Muhammad Chughtai, Leon Geyer, Sam Cook, Monika Gibson, Mary Madis, Valerie Hardcastle, Edwin Larroy Rodriguez, Brandon Smith

Guests: Ellen Plummer, Mary Grace Campos, Jennie Reilly, Peter Wallenstein, Ed Spencer

I. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was approved as revised.

II. Chair Report

Ray Plaza noted that the spring meeting schedule was listed on the reverse side of the agenda. There are nine scheduled meetings from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon with a change in sequence in March due to the Board of Visitors meeting. Additionally, the first meeting is not until January 24 since the first day of classes is MLK day and a difficult time for many people to meet. The Diversity Summit is scheduled for Friday, January 21 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Owens Banquet Hall. Mary Grace Campos reported that the planning committee met to begin working on the details for the summit. A historical overview of previous summits will be distributed to participants. There will also be scenarios, a group activity, and roundtable discussions around the four Ps (Policy, Personnel, Pedagogy, and Programs). Commission members will be needed as facilitators and recorders during the roundtable discussions. Departments and units will also be given the opportunity to share resources on tables at the summit. Pat Hyer asked if there would be time to share the statement that is being drafted for the Board's review at their meeting in March. It was determined that reviewing that at the summit would be appropriate if the commission has an opportunity to respond to it at the next meeting. Pat will check on the status of the statement and more details on the roles and expectations of members at the summit will be shared next week. Michael Goode charged members with the task of coming up with a catchy name for the summit.

III. Presentations

A. Naming of Buildings

Ray passed out the Commemorative Tributes Policy and shared that Betsy Flanagan, Vice President for Development, was not able to attend the commission meetings but if there are questions related to the policy, Ray can forward them to her. A question was raised about whether any other buildings have been renamed.

B. Lee Hall Name Controversy – Dr. Peter Wallenstein

Dr. Wallenstein shared some documents and provided background information on the investigation into Claudius Lee and Lee Hall that was done at the request of the President Torgersen. There was an addendum to the November 11 report that was shared. Dr. Wallenstein said that the questions that are being raised again are complicated and need to be thought through carefully. He suggested that there are "action" items that were identified in the November 11 report that may still be applicable today. Additionally, he suggested that the university could confer an honorary degree to Irving Peddrew. Hayward Farrar asked what Claudius Lee had done to deserve having a building named after him. Dr. Wallenstein shared that he was on the faculty for 50 years and was a really good teacher for a long

time. He also shared some of the names of buildings at other universities. Pat Hyer shared a case at Indiana University and how their chancellor dealt with the issues surrounding a mural in question. Ray thanked Dr. Wallenstein and said that at the meeting next week the commission will discuss the options and determine our recommendation. He asked that members reread the documents and be prepared with some specific recommendations to address this issue.

C. Theme Housing Components

Ray introduced Dr. Ed Spencer to share the process for theme housing programs. Dr. Spencer passed out two handouts. One was the Student Programs brochure which has theme housing as part of it and the other was the application form for theme housing programs. The deadline for theme housing proposals is August 1 because the brochure has to go to print so early. It is a detailed application. Kim Beisecker reminded members that it also requires a backbone of funding and a strong, stable support group in order to succeed. Another option is to lease a house in the Oak Lane community. One of the fraternities is not renewing its lease, so there is an open house. There was some conversation about concerns with having too many theme housing options. Dr. Spencer also shared that with the Biological and Life Sciences and Galileo both being housed in Lee Hall, it would be highly unlikely that another theme housing option could also be located in that hall. Michael Goode suggested that what is really needed for this paradigm shift is something more globally applied to all residence halls. A question was raised about the training that Resident Advisers receive. They take a three-credit course during their first semester in the job and three weeks of the course are devoted to diversity training. Additionally, they are required to attend a fall workshop prior to the beginning of the semester.

IV. New Business

A. Peace Garden Structure

Kim Beisecker passed out some information on the Peace Garden Structure. The Rotary Club in the name of the university was able to get some materials from the World Trade Center. They are proposing to build a monument in the Peace Garden. The international students are opposed to this as they see it as a monument to terror and don't feel they need a "reminder." Additionally, Cranwell is seen by them as a safe and non-political place. There is a meeting later this week with members of the administration and Scott Hurst, the university architect, and Kurt Krause will be at the next meeting to answer any questions about the proposal. Members of the commission did voice their objections to the proposal and asked that Kim share those objections at the meeting this week.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is Monday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room C at Donaldson Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia P. Cohen, Secretary to the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity