

## **Shepherd University Diversity and Equity Committee Meeting Minutes April 9, 2014**

---

April 9, 2014 \* 3:10 p.m.

Blue-Grey Room \* Student Center

**In attendance:** Erica Burke, Scott Beard, Larry Dowdy, Karen Green, lynne hannah, Chris Johnson, Jim Lewin, Shanan Spencer, Tom Segar, Richie Stevens, Sherie Washington

Minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **REPORTS:**

Multi-Cultural Student Affairs (Chris Johnson):

Ms. Johnson distributed a handout of the numerous events sponsored by her division this semester. She also explained about some of the mix-ups with the speaker for the Sweet Dreams event. It was significant that the film has been donated to the library. The event still occurred, albeit, with some disgruntled community members, and melted ice cream.

Some of the upcoming events include survivors of the Japanese Internment camps and a Tae Kwon Do demonstration and seminar.

LGBT resource center: A new resource center in Gardiner Hall has opened. ALLIES has taken on staffing the center. There are text and movies there. They are seeking donations for the center as well. Residence Life has generously donated some furniture for this space.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Dr. Stevens reported on developments with the Storer College award. The draft memo was sent to the Deans. Dr. Stevens offered to visit various stakeholder groups regarding the rationale, criteria and nomination process for the award. A presence will be developed on the web. It was suggested that Dr. Segar chair the first Award Review Committee. Members discussed the timeline and other possible committee members.

For the future meetings, Dr. Segar is looking to book presentations for the meetings next year. Some units include Enrollment Management, University Police, Counseling Services, Residence Life, Facilities, SAVA program, Graduate populations, etc.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. Segar sought input from committee members regarding following issues discussed regarding needs of transgender students on campus.

\*Issues with RAIL/Banner data. Are there newer systems and software that are coming into place? This is related to folks who use other names. Could there be a preferred name field on the application that will feed into RAIL/BANNER/SAKAI. Other options include the use of transgender, etc. leave it blank? preferred pronoun?

\*For the issue of gender neutral bathrooms, it was suggested to contact Don Nuckols. The gender neutral bathrooms in the lobby of residence halls are quite small. Could a possible goal be to have a gender neutral restroom in each building or even on each floor on campus? There is also the balance of compliance with ADA issues. The bathrooms should really be where the students are vs. if it is in an area with lots of faculty. The library might present an excellent opportunity to put these facilities on the first floor or 24-hour room. Committee members discussed this issue at length.

**Committee Membership:** Are there other folks on campus who should be members of the committee? More outreach to the local community? Connection to K-12 system? Representative from Jefferson County? Graduate student representative, a representative from each Academic School? HR, College Counsel? Annual visit from the President?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held September 10, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Scott Beard, Assoc. VPAA