

**MINUTES**

Wichita State University – **President’s Diversity Council (PDC)**

DATE: February 1, 2017

TIME: 9:30a –10:30

LOCATION: Morrison Hall Conference Room



**PRESENT:** Stephen Arnold, President Bardo, Mehmet Barut, Traniece Bruce, Deanna Carrithers, Alex Chaparro, Jaya Escobar-Bhattacharjee, Judy Espinoza, Marche Fleming-Randle, Jean Griffith, Riccardo Harris, Aaron Hamilton, Alex Johnson, Danielle Johnson, Krishna Krishnan, Rhonda Lewis, Gergana Markova, Kennedy Musamali, Quang Nguyen, Douglas Parham, Alicia Sanchez, Sarah Sell, Natasha Stephens, Johnnie Thompson, Janet Twomey, and Robert Weems

**NOT PRESENT:** Tracia Banuelos, Rick Muma, Lyston Skerritt, and Russell Widener

- I. **Welcome/President’s Perspective** – President Bardo welcomed President’s Diversity Council members and congratulated them on the one-year anniversary of the Council. In addition, he provided several updates related to university activities. First, President Bardo indicated that the most recent immigration order would impact 41 WSU students. He encouraged faculty, staff and students to be continue to be supportive by following-up their well-being. He indicated that WSU would continue to provide a welcoming environment where all students can be successful. Second, President Bardo provided an update on the 67214 project. He indicated that WSU would be partnering with the City of Wichita on this project and would be collecting data and would also utilize zip code data available. Lastly, President Bardo answered questions about how to support students impacted by the immigration order and indicated he would follow-up on a question related to salaries for international faculty.
- II. **Remarks from Provost and Senior Vice President** – Dr. Tony Vizzini congratulated members of the President’s Diversity Council and thanked them for their service. He indicated that the work of diversity and inclusion was important and he thanked Council members for creating opportunities for others. He encouraged Council members to continue to focus on critical issues and not be distracted. He concluded thanking Council members for all of the hard work that was been done.
- III. **Appreciation/Remarks from the Assistant to the President for Diversity** – Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle congratulated and expressed appreciation for the work of the President’s Diversity Council members over the last year. She indicated that she was proud of the work that has been done and looked forward to working with Council members in the future. As a part of her comments, she thanked Aaron Hamilton for his work in admitting a new student within 24 hours. She highlighted Aaron’s commitment to providing the highest level of service and encouraged everyone to strive for excellence. In the interest of time, she shared the copies of the 2017

subcommittee goals and encouraged Council members to review the information and provide feedback. She also indicated that the information would be emailed by Deanna Carrithers, Special Projects Liaison, to the Council.

IV. **College Liaison Updates** – The following college updates were shared:

- a. *College of Education* – Dr. Johnnie Thompson highlighted the work of the College’s diversity committee which would focus on retention. In addition, she highlighted that the committee was also working on faculty mentor program.
- b. *College of Engineering* – Dr. Krishna Krishnan shared an update on his college and highlighted upcoming training related to biases. He indicated that biases both explicit and implicit have an impact and would be addressed in the training. He indicated that more information would be provided at future meetings.
- c. *College of Fine Arts* – Dr. Russell Widener was unable to attend but asked that President’s Diversity Council members attend “Ain’t I A Woman” on March 27. The President’s Diversity Council is co-sponsoring the event which will be free to the public.
- d. *College of Health Professions* – Dr. Stephen Arnold indicated that he recently attended a military training incorporating health articulations and was working to identify how the College of Health Professions could be more supportive of military students and increase collaboration.
- e. *Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College* – Dr. Doug Parham highlighted that the Dean’s Advisory Council would meet in March to discuss how to increase diversity inside and outside of the classroom to ensure the development of a living and learning community. He stated that an update would be provided at a future meeting.
- f. *Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences* – Dr. Rhonda Lewis shared that LAS would be establishing a Diversity and Inclusion Council. She indicated that she had reached out to the College of Education and others on how to successfully implement the Council and also explore opportunities for collaboration.
- g. *W. Frank Barton School of Business* – Dr. Gery Markova indicated that the College was exploring opportunities to provide credit for diversity related training. In the interest of time, she indicated that she would email additional updates to Deanna Carrithers.

V. **Black Educators Update** – Janice Thacker shared that Art That Touches Your Heart would be partnering with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to host an exhibit at the Rhatigan Student Center on February 23 and 24. She also highlighted potential scholarships opportunities for students including the Dr. Val Brown scholarship and indicated she would send additional information to Deanna Carrithers.

VI. **Announcements/As May Arise** – Dr. Fleming-Randle requested announcements for Council which included the following but not exclusively:

- a. Office of Diversity and Inclusion – ODI staff shared a calendar for upcoming Black History Month events. Also, staff shared that they would be taking students to K-State to hear Angela Davis speak. Lastly, ODI would be hosting the Phenomenal Woman awards and staff and faculty are encouraged to attend this event as well.
- b. Human Resource Update – Judy Espinoza, WSU HR Director, indicated that the

department would be looking at the student experience in gaining employment on campus. An update would be provided in the future.

- c. Tilford Update – Dr. Jean Griffin indicated that two upcoming luncheons for faculty and students were scheduled. She indicated she would follow-up on opportunities for staff.
- d. Veteran’s Update – With multiple veteran’s services on campus, it was stated that opportunities for collaboration and partnership could be explored to enhance communication efforts throughout campus.

VII. **Closing Remarks/Adjourn** – Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle thanked all Council members for their service again and expressed thanks to Deanna Carrithers for her assistance in supporting the President’s Diversity Council.

VIII. **Adjourn** – Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle indicated the next PDC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 at 9:30a in the Morrison Hall Conference Room and adjourned the meeting.