

**MINUTES**

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

DATE: November 2, 2016

TIME: 9:30a -10:30

LOCATION: Rhatigan Student Center – Santa Fe Trail Room



**PRESENT:** Stephen Arnold, Mehmet Barut, Traniece Bruce, Deanna Carrithers, Alex Chaparro, Jaya Escobar-Bhattacharjee, Judy Espinoza, Marche Fleming-Randle, Jean Griffith, Aaron Hamilton, Riccardo Harris, Alex Johnson, Danielle Johnson, Rhonda Lewis, Rick Muma, Quang Nguyen, Douglas Parham, Alicia Sanchez, Sarah Sell, Lyston Skerritt, Natasha Stephens, Johnnie Thompson, Janet Twomey, Robert Weems and Russell Widener

**NOT PRESENT:** President Bardo, Krishna Krishnan and Gergana Markova

- I. **Welcome** – Dr. Fleming-Randle opened the meeting with introductions and welcomed guests, specifically the Black Educators Hall of Fame. Dr. Fleming-Randle indicated President Bardo was under the weather and sends his regards and agreed to host a future luncheon with guests from the Black Educators Hall of Fame in the future. With a full agenda, Dr. Fleming-Randle proceeded to the next item on the agenda.
  
- II. **Overview of Black Educators Hall of Fame** – Janice Thacker provided an initial introduction of Art That Touches Your Heart which is the organization the Black Educators Hall of Fame work in concert with to promote community activities within this area. Through this relationship, the Black Educators Hall of Fame provided an overview of efforts to support and promote educational opportunities for minorities within the community. Members of the Black Educators expressed concern regarding low enrollment and retention rates for minorities at Wichita State University and throughout the greater community. Specifically, the Black Educators would like to advance university efforts to identify ways to partner with the President’s Diversity Council.

As a part of the discussion, Black Educators provided a historical perspective of activities that have been conducted in the past in addition to gaps in services along with possible strategies for success. Black Educators raised questions regarding preparedness for students and indicated that the association would like to work more closely with the university to support long-term success of students. In addition, questions were raised regarding the composition of the PDC and Dr. Fleming-Randle shared that minority groups were statistically represented as a part of the WSU population and had indicated that participants were strategically selected and the composition of the PDC is reflective of the WSU community.

Questions were also raised regarding the admissions process and Rick Muma indicated that he would solicit feedback from the Black Educators and would reach out to schedule a future meeting. Also, requests were made for future marketing of

WSU activities as the Innovation Campus and other activities developed to educate and inform the community. Lastly, Dr.

Fleming-Randle indicated that conversations would continue with the Black Educators and requested the group appoint a representative from the group to coordinate with the President's Diversity Council and would be welcome to attend future meetings.

### III. **President's Diversity Council Updates**

- a. **DiverseCity Week** – Deanna Carrithers, President's Diversity Council Liaison, thanked the Marketing and Communications Committee for their tremendous effort during DiverseCity Week. Quang Nguyen was commended for the extraordinary efforts to market all of the activities throughout the week.
- b. **PDC Website** – President's Diversity Council members were asked to send updates to be added to the PDC website calendar. Danielle Johnson was commended for sending weekly updates that are informative and provide updates regarding the Office of Diversity and Inclusion activities.
- c. **President's Diversity Council 2017 Meeting Schedule** – Meetings will continue to be scheduled the first Wednesday of the month with the exception of dates near university holidays. President's Diversity Council members would be notified in advance of any changes.
- d. **Retention and Engagement Committee** – Dr. Natasha Stephens has been named the new chair of the Retention and Engagement Committee. Dr. Gergana Markova will continue to serve on the President's Diversity Council and the Liaison to the Barton School of Business.
- e. **Council of University Women Red, White and Wu: Honoring Our Military Veteran's** – The Council of University Women will be hosting an event on Wednesday, November 9 to support Veterans and encouraged PDC members to attend. Please contact Dr. Fleming-Randle or Deanna for additional details.
- f. **Partnership with the Ministerial Alliance** – Dr. Fleming-Randle has been working with the Wichita Ministerial Alliance to provide a scholarship for underserved youth. In addition, the Ministerial Alliance would also like to host a scholarship recognition dinner at WSU and will be working with the PDC to coordinate the event.
- g. **New President's Diversity Council Appointees** – Dr. Richard Muma and Traniece Bruce have been appointed to the President's Diversity Council. Dr. Muma was recently appointed new Senior Vice President of Strategic Enrollment Management and Traniece is from the Office of Financial Aid. Dr. Fleming-

Randle and other Council members congratulated them on their appointments and looked forward to working with them in the future.

**Student Updates** – Kaye Monk-Morgan, Acting Dean of Student, shared a couple of opportunities for improvement. Specifically, Kaye mentioned the need for additional support and organization minority student events such as Songfest and the upcoming Hippodrome event. Dr. Fleming-Randle indicated her and the President's Diversity Council's support and would like for opportunities to increase support for these events in the future.

**Diversity Taskforce Proposal** – The Diversity Taskforce Proposal was presented by SGA President, Joseph Shepard, regarding student representation to the President's Diversity Council. While the proposal was still under consideration by SGA, SGA requested to present the proposal to the President's Diversity Council to share their recommendation. Currently, the Diversity Taskforce serves as a committee to Student Government Association and has requested a student representation on the President's Diversity Council. During the discussion, Dr. Fleming-Randle indicated Tracia Banuelos, Chair of the Diversity Taskforce, would be appointed the student representative to the President's Diversity Council and the future Chairs of the Diversity Taskforce would serve the student liaison to the Council. Because President's Diversity Council members had just been briefed on the proposal, Dr. Fleming-Randle indicated that the proposal would be shared and discussed at a future meeting however, Tracia Banuelos, would be appointed immediately.

- IV. **Closing Remarks/Adjourn** – Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle thanked everyone for their participation and looked forward to continuing to make an impact on the WSU campus community.
- V. **Adjourn** – Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle indicated the next PDC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 7 at 9:30a in the Morrison Hall Conference Room and adjourned the meeting.