

Diversity Council Minutes  
Meeting 2  
September 28, 2018  
PSC 356

Present: Dr. Lopez, Dr. Shikwambi, Dr. Kamera, Scott Spangler (Chair), Dr. Wang, Ms. Adams-Square, Dr. Wengier (Acting Recorder), Mr. El-Jeaid, Dr. Ekwuaju (via phone), Mr. Ligon, Ms. Bacote (ex-officio)

Absent: Ms. Ruggerio, Dr. Castain (ex-officio)

Excused: Ms. Spears.

1. Call to order 10:04 a.m.

2. Roll call

First – Francisco Lopez. Second – Lily W– Francisco Lopez. Approved.

5. Charge from the Provost:

“Continue efforts to review diversity across campus and identify areas and methods how diversity can help accomplish institutional goals.”

6. Elections for 2019-2020

Recorder: Sabrina Wengier.

Chair-Elect: Shamani Shikwambi

7. Discussion of Committee functions and membership document drafted by the Diversity Inclusion, and Equity Ad Hoc committee in November 2016.

A member requested clarification for how the Diversity Council started. Answer: The committee was a mandate from the president; the committee drafted a Diversity statement for the university that was then modified and adopted by the President’s cabinet. The ad hoc committee also recommended the formation of a Diversity Council.

The Council then looked at the document outlining the membership and functions of the Diversity Council that was drafted by the ad hoc committee:

- **Membership:** the Council noted that we still need a student representative
- **Budget:** The uncertainty of having a budget was discussed extensively. The Council discussed the need to define a line of programs and events in order to put a budget together. The Council also discussed possible sources of funding, such as the Foundation. The Council also talked about the events that already exist and that are related to promoting cultural awareness such as the International Food Festival (Cochran), a roundtable of faculty from various countries sharing their experiences (Cochran), a cultural festival (Macon)

council suggested a speaker series, and noted that since a committee is already in place to bring speakers to campus, this could be a recommendation made to this committee.

- Advise and assist: the question was raised whether this is the purview of this Council or whether these are HR matters. Dr. Wengier that the ad hoc committee thought of this function as mirroring the ‘green zone’ points of contact for military and veterans, but for issues of diversity. Dr. Spangler suggested the creation of “Knights Understand Diversity Representatives.”
- Awards: The Council noted that there is already a Faculty Recognition committee. The Council suggested that it draft a document with a rubric regarding diversity-related awards and recommend the addition of such awards to the Faculty Recognition committee.
- Report: The issue was raised that such a report should be done at the institutional level rather than at the council level.
- Calendar: The feasibility and the logistics of the calendar were discussed.

The council decided to table the document as the issues it raises require further reflection. First – Lopez. Second – Wang. Tabled.

The council concluded that there are two main functions that need to be defined and that subcommittees will be formed to address them:

- a. Cultural events and programs. Subcommittee: Josephine Kamera; Lily Wang; Imad El-Jeaid; Tf 1.5 0 04 Tw