SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION EQUITY AND CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT
Minutes for Meeting 1, September 9, 2014

Members Present: Kimberly Blockett, Susan Fredricks (participated by phone), Ron Gebhardtbsauer, Patresse D. Ingram, Melissa K. McCleery, Laura L. Pauley (Chair), David L. Shupp, Jane S. Sutton, Mary Vollero, Marcus Whitehurst, Luis Ocampo, Dwight Davis (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: Mary Dean Coleman-Kelly, Sonia Khanchandani

Call to Order and Introductions
The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM with committee introductions. Dr. Marcus Whitehurst (Interim Vice Provost for Educational Equity) was introduced and welcomed to the committee.

Approval of the minutes of April 29, 2014
Minutes approved after the meeting by electronic communication.

Committee Charge and Priority Form
Reviewed and discussed by committee. EECE will work with other Senate committees on a number of topics and reports including Faculty Benefits Committee on the New Health Care Plan; Student Life Committee and Faculty Benefits Committee on student literacy initiative in areas of financial, legal, and healthcare.

Comments by the chair and Overview of the Officers and Chairs meeting (Pauley)
Dr. Terrell Jones died since the last committee meeting. Members acknowledged his long-standing contributions to the committee and Penn State University. Comments from the Committee were collected to be sent to his family.

Comments by the Vice Provost for Educational Equity (Whitehurst)
1. Keith Gilyard, Distinguished Professor in Department of English, will serve as the Senior Faculty Mentor.
2. Update-- General Education Task Force is continuing to explore ways to strengthen the diversity requirements. Gen. Ed. Task Force is also looking to strengthen how a particular course meets the diversity requirement and to consider the quality of certain courses (objectives and how to measure outcomes).
3. Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Equity are hoping to encourage Penn State to implement a rest room policy that would support individuals going through the transgender transition process. CLGBTE is also hoping the University will enhance its benefits package to support the surgical procedure for transgender patients. The current benefit package supports counseling and medications.
4. Strategic Planning -- Review Teams are underway reviewing all 48 unit strategic plans submitted by campuses, and colleges. Each review team has representation from faculty, staff, and students and will focus on the diversity and inclusion within each plan.
Commission Reports

Commission for LGBT Equity (Gebhardtsbauer)
Ron Gebhardtsbauer is a member of the Commission and will be responsible for the Senate report this year.

Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity (Ingram)
- The Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity will hold its Fall Kick-Off on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 from 10:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Commission initiatives for the year will be discussed.
- The annual Promotion and Tenure Symposium is scheduled for October 17 at the Foster Auditorium, Paterno Library.
- Derald Wing Sue will speak on Microaggressions and Marginality: Manifestation, Dynamics, and Impact on September 16, from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. This presentation is a part of Educational Equity’s ongoing series of Best Practices in Diversity and is co-sponsored by a host of other organizations and committees.

Commission for Women (Fredricks)
- There was a joint commission meeting with Coach Franklin on July 21st. They hoped to discuss his vision and initiatives on diversity.
- CFW had a table at the Student Resources Fair at the HUB. They cultivated a list of names and addresses of interested students.
- The first executive committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 27th.
- The next executive committee meeting will be Sept 10th from 12-1:30pm.
- CFW Open House will be held on September 16th from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Hintz Family Alumni Center, Robb Hall. The information Flyer has been uploaded into Angel already.
- The Ninth Annual Awards Luncheon will occur on Thursday, April 2, 2015 in Presidents Hall in the Penn Stater Conference Hotel starting at noon.

Old Business

President’s Response to the “Report on the Procedures Used to Hire Faculty”
President Barron accepted the recommendations of the report that was communicated to administrators.

New Business

Climate for LGBTQ Faculty and Students (recommendations from the August 28, 2012 Senate Report)
Ron Gebhardtsbauer will review the status of support of liaisons to campuses.

Review Diversity Plans in Unit Strategic Plans
EECE will clarify this charge with Senate leadership and work with the Educational Equity Office on their planned review of diversity plans in unit strategic plans.
Diversity in Administrative Positions
It was decided to review diversity in administrative positions across the University. Kimberly Blockett and Patreese Ingram will contact Human Resources for data to be reviewed by the Committee.

Announcements
None.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.

Minutes submitted by Laura Pauley, Committee Chair