

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Ad-Hoc Committee

Meeting One
Thursday, July 8, 2021
[YouTube Broadcast](#)

SUMMARY

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| Members Present: | Dr. Hyacinth McKee (Committee Chair), Randall Brown (Council Chair), Temisha Victorian, Angela Harmon, Corhonda Corley, Bambi Polotzola |
| Members Absent: | N/A |
| Attendees: | Lillian DeJean, Azadeh Yazdi, Rana Ottallah, Shenikwa Medlock, Susan Reihn, Nicole Flores, Liz Gary, Kelly Monroe, Mylinda Elliott, Kristie Curtis, Kathleen Cannino, Naisha Brignac, Kim Basile, Cindy Arceneaux |
| Staff: | Marilee Andrews, Amy Deaville, Brenton Andrus, Ebony Haven |
| Transcriptionist: | Lynsey Hebert |

Ms. Andrews calls roll and a quorum is established. Ms. Andrews reviews the [Virtual Meeting Protocols](#).

Dr. McKee shares that committee is in response to a lot of what has happened nationally in regard to equitable practices towards people of color, but acknowledges the Council was already moving in the direction of proactively establishing this committee to address issues regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Committee Members introduce themselves.

Committee charter discussion re: purpose of the DEI Committee.

MOTION PASSED: *Motion for the DEI Committee to recommend for the Council to expand the purpose of the DEI Committee to the following:*

Make recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration regarding:

- *Addressing all emerging issues with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion, meeting on an as-needed basis;*
- *Supporting advocacy efforts for diversity, equity, and inclusion to enhance cultural competence and create an overall inclusive culture for people of color, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual identity and orientation, religion, and diverse language speakers;*

- *Establishing, implementing, revising and revisiting policies that promote diversity, equity and inclusion that are aligned with the DD Act ([Association of University Centers on Disabilities summary](#)) ([statute](#));*
- *Adapting to diversity and embedding an institutionalized knowledge of diversity, equitable practices inclusive of cultural competence and cultural humility in Council policies, procedures and practices; and*
- *Dedicating resources to policies, structures, practices, and procedures to support DEI in the mission and work of the Council*

Made by Ms. Corley, seconded by Ms. Victorian, passed without objection or abstention.

MOTION PASSED: *A motion for the DEI Committee to meet quarterly in sync with Council meetings, made by Ms. Corley, seconded by Ms. Victorian, passed with no objections or abstentions.*

The committee discussed future agenda items:

- Review of Membership
- Review of DEI Committee motion at July 2021 Council meeting
- DEI Committee Charter

Dr. McKee opens the floor to public comment. Ms. Lillian DeJean requests the committee keep in mind individuals with diverse religious backgrounds and LGBTQ individuals. Ms. Azadeh Yazdi shares that other committees are sharing their pronouns prior to meetings and that hiring practices are not in future agenda items. Dr. McKee clarifies that hiring practices will be discussed further at the next meeting and be included as a stated objective in the DEI committee charter's specific responsibilities. Ms. Polotzola shared that Ms. DeJean was meant to be appointed to the committee; members of the public expressed interest in becoming members of the committee. Dr. McKee provided information on how to request becoming a member of the DEI committee. Ms. Andrews shared that it was a pleasure working with the committee and that she will be taking an extended leave fairly soon and there will be a different staff member staffing this committee.

Dr. McKee adjourned the meeting at 10:56 AM.