

Graduate Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2016
5PM
Center for Teaching Conference Room

In attendance: Brielle Harbin, Mia Keey, Erica Shannon, Rebecca Levinson, Briana Perry, Richard Blissett, Justin Hua, and Terrance Dean
Absent: Leah Samples, James Dennis, Francesca Walker, Sara Green
Minutes by: Justin Hua
Minutes edited by: Richard Blissett and Brielle Harbin

1. Introductions
2. Overview of current VU diversity initiatives
 - a. Chancellor says diversity is most important issue to address
 - b. Three administrative bodies
 - i. Office of Inclusion Initiatives and Cultural Competence (Tine Smith)
 - ii. Vice Chancellor for Diversity George Hill
 - iii. Faculty Diversity Committee (faculty committee): by end of the year, they want to develop a report to present to the Chancellor on what Vanderbilt needs to do re: diversity/inclusion; focus on data collection
 - iv. Action committee (report to Dr. Hill)
 - v. 15-person committee (the smaller committee for more immediate issues)
 - vi. Perspectives committee (30-person)
3. Update from first student advisory committee (perspectives committee)
 - a. 1st meeting was sparsely attended
 - b. Undergraduates raised problems and solutions
 - c. Three graduate/professional students in attendance (the event was scheduled during class, and rather unknown building to grads)
 - d. Grad recommendations:
 - i. Need to disaggregate grad vs. undergrad needs/characteristic differences
 - ii. Ombudsman (person for grad students to approach with issues who is impartial to power relationships) - mentor-mentee relationship
volatility/sensitivity in important
 - iii. Clearer chain of communication needed
4. Other non-administrative bodies
 - a. Hidden Does – undergraduate organizing
 - b. Lambda and Office of LGBTQI+ Life, most advocacy work goes through this Office and Chris Purcell
 - c. This graduate committee
5. Relationship with the GSC
 - a. Hosted under Student Life Committee

- b. Pilot Program: Committee is a group under the Student Life Liaison umbrella
 - i. Budget allocation possible for this semester
 - ii. May request summaries of goals, reports, formalities
- 6. Review of proposal to GSC and committee goals
 - a. Concerns: the way that the committee will interact with GSC
 - b. Our current committee goals
 - i. Focus on student perspective collection, writing a summary report.
 - ii. Getting an org chart together
- 7. Meeting logistics (times and place)
 - a. 4th Mondays, 5pm
 - b. Next meeting is Feb 22nd