

October 1, 2015, Meeting of the Commission for Women

22 in attendance: Misty Bailey, Ashley Blamey, Chandra Harris-McCray, Margaret Lazarus Dean, Patricia Freeland, Tamara Griffin, Domonique Hatton, Kierstyn Lamour, Thura Mack, Lisa Reyes Mason, Bruce MacLennan, Stephanie Metz, Vera Pantanizopoulos-Broux, Rickey Hall, Melissa Shivers, Leigh Shoemaker, Rita Smith, Wendy Syer, Stephanie TerMaath, Barbara Thayer-Bacon, Dixie Thompson, Jessica Welch

- I. Call to order
- II. September minutes approved
- III. Report of the Chair
 - a. Meeting with Chancellor Cheek and Discussion of Gender Neutral Pronouns
 - i. Removal of the webpage was reactive rather than proactive and seen as an act of censorship.
 - ii. Educators would like education, discussion, and information on gender-neutral pronouns and how to make students feel safe and comfortable.
 - iii. Resources
 - 1. Marquette's Writing Center
 - 2. Safe Zone training as a resource: safezone.utk.edu
 - 3. Video – Tennessee Today, We're All Vols, embracing diversity
 - b. Outsourcing / "Tennessee Is Not for Sale"
 - i. Unpopular idea that has raised concerns about safety and cost
 - c. Homeless Students
 - i. UT published an article about a homeless student, but there are many homeless students.
 - ii. The article was positive to highlight the dedication of these students, but what can we do about it?
 - iii. Educators must keep in mind economic diversity of students and that students are sometimes even working full-time jobs.
- IV. Other Commissions
 - a. Commission for LGBT People: Tamara Griffin
 - i. Welcome Reception on September 24
 - ii. Focus on gender pronoun issue with Donna Braquet and VC Hall
 - iii. Goal of collective response and action from all Commissions, not just with the pronoun issue but with other issues as they arise.
 - iv. Next meeting: Monday, October 5
 - b. Commission for Blacks: Sept. 10
 - i. First meeting for the year, informational focus
 - ii. Next meeting: Thursday, October 8
 - c. Council for Diversity & Interculturalism
 - i. Donna Braquet presented and discussed the Pride Center's name change (formerly the OUTreach Center) and new graduate assistant.
- V. Impact Report from VC Hall's Office - Published

- a. All Commissions and Councils provided reports, including CFW.
- VI. Presentation from Dean of Students, Melissa Shivers (see attachment)
- VII. Adjourn