



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

Committee on Diversity Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2021 | 1:00 p.m. | Zoom

I. Call to order

Nate Quinn called to order the regular meeting of the EPP Committee on Diversity at 1:00 p.m. on April 7, 2021.

Present: Melanie Carden-Jessen, Heidi Hadley, Judith Martinez, Juan Meraz, Sarah Nixon, Wes Pratt, Nate Quinn, Dennis Rudnick, Travis Seay, Tonia Tinsley, Kelly Wynne

II. Approval of minutes

March 3, 2021 minutes approved.

III. Discussion Items

1. Elections

- a. There were two or three candidates elected yesterday that are anti-cultural responsive teaching and have some challenging views.
- b. Is it this committee's role to get the university's message of diversity and positivity out to other organizations?
- c. The university is not going to be receptive of us telling districts what to do. Maybe we could reach out to district superintendents. They meet once a month and MSU is involved with that. We can present on the importance of diversity or provide a training. It should be coordinated at the university level. We will not be able to get into schools without going through the superintendents.
- d. Presenting at the state superintendent conference is a good way to reach out and plant a seed. Writing a column or op-ed for the local paper is another option.
- e. We should start with presenting to superintendents locally and that may open to the door to present at the state conference.
- f. The committee agrees to contact superintendents and request 15 minutes of their time. We need to know who is leading the charge.
 - i. This could be construed as a University position. We need to involve Dr. Chris Craig as the head of the EPP unit. We do not want to run the risk of schools no longer taking our student teachers. There is some safety in the current structure.
 - ii. We need to be careful about who we are representing. We may not necessarily be representing MSU or a department but work more as a consultant or as an individual and not part of MSU or a committee.
- g. Dr. Quinn will get the superintendent meeting information.

2. Dr. Quinn shared slides with the on University Diversity Goals and the committee discussed faculty and staff recruitment and retention.

IV. New Business

1. No new business

V. Old Business

1. Dr. Dennis Rudnick is the 21-22 EPP Committee on Diversity Chair.

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901 South National Avenue, Springfield, MO 65897 • Phone: 417-836-6204

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2. Dr. Judith Martinez will replace Dr. Tonia Tinsley on this committee for 21-22.

Dr. Quinn adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Vicki Kramer