

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 17th, 10:00am online via Teams

Committee Members: Alexander, Justin; Butler, Juliette; Byrd, Shinika; Cornelius, Jeffrey; Deamues, Kennedy; Ellis, Minnette; Flippo, Cala; Jones, Krimsyn; Looser, Melanie; Hopkins, Rebecca; Patel, Dhrumil; Rhodes, Tammy; Sherrill, Lindsey; Zelaya, Karla; Zills, Grace

Members Present: G.Zills, J. Butler, J. Byrd, J. Cornelius, K. Deamues, M. Ellis, C. Flippo, R. Hopkins, M. Looser, T. Rhodes, L. Sherrill

- I. Approval of Agenda: G. Zills, S. Lindsey
- II. Approval of Minutes from August 31st, 2023 meeting: G. Zills, S. Lindsey
- III. Today's Business:

a) **President's Diversity Award:**

- Nominations open January 8th 2024
- Nomination Deadline is Friday February 16, 2024- All in favor motion approved
- Selected Awardees are due to University Awards Gala Committee by March 1, 2024
 - ***Can we adjust dates to allow more time for reviewing and selecting awardees?***
 - ***When will the MAC committee receive the award nominees?***
- **Discussion:** Feedback from the committee members requests to meet again in January after applicants have submitted to decide on the winner. Minette Ellis or Patterson will submit applicants to the committee. The plan is to move the timeline up. S. Byrd and J. Cornelius volunteered with M. Looser, G. Zills, and J. Butler as standby for the subcommittee to review applicants.
- MAC Role – Review documents (i.e., letters of nomination) based on criteria and select 2 Awardees to each receive the \$500 award
 - ***Creation of sub-committee(s) to review nominee documents-*** L. Sherrill, second S. Byrd then unanimously voted
- Selection Criteria – [President's Diversity Award \(una.edu\)](#)
 - **Significance:** How has the nominee(s) demonstrated superior leadership and commitment to the enhancement, development, and sustainability of diversity and inclusive excellence?
 - **Innovation:** How has the nominee(s) contribution uniquely addressed key issues of diversity and inclusion throughout the UNA community? How is this contribution different from existing activities and projects that address diversity and inclusion?
 - **Impact:** What have been the measurable outcomes? Has this project/program/activity been replicated at other institutions? How has this project/program/activity “moved the needle” in addressing issues of diversity and inclusion throughout the UNA community?

b) **Major Dewayne Williams Scholarship:** L. Sherrill, second S. Byrd

Recipients of the scholarship must meet the following qualifications:

To the extent permitted by law, priority of consideration shall be given to a student that it is ***an incoming freshman whose enrollment would enhance the diversity*** of the University's student population, thereby improving the quality of the University's education experience and product. Or a ***current enrolled student with a minimum 2.5 GPA whose admittance enhances the diversity*** at UNA.

- MDW Application for 2024-2025 opened for students on November 1, 2023.
- Application Deadline for students is March 1st, 2024
- Ms. Hannah Littrell, Scholarship Manager, aims to have the list of applications to MAC by approximately March 18, 2024
- **MAC Role: Select 2 scholarship recipients:** 1 incoming freshman student *and* 1 currently enrolled student
 - Sub-Committee(s) created to review applicants?
 - Scholarship recipient names must be submitted to Ms. Littrell by May 1st, 2024

Ideas for Filtering the MDW Applications –

- The spreadsheet for those who meet the scholarship criteria for enrollment and GPA may have more than 1000 students.
- The following information is requested from applicants and entered into the spreadsheet. These may be possible filters to narrow the applications -
 - GPA
 - Ethnicity
 - 150-word person statement in response to “Why are you a good candidate for a scholarship?”
 - Previous Awards
 - List Your Activities/Community Service/Volunteer/Work Experience

Discussion: J. Cornelius and S. Byrd asked how we can narrow for diversity? M. Ellis suggested committee deciding what diversity they are looking for. In the description of scholarship it is not specific for diversity. The committee suggests to change this for 2024-2025. It is too late for this year to add specific diversity because applications opened November 1st for this academic year. Open discussion to decide where is the diversity in each college and decide what the committee is looking for. The amount is around \$248 per recipient from an endowment. Cornelius suggests to filter who has already received scholarships vs those that have not received any scholarship. Also, filter by who is actually committed to UNA. Lindsey Sherrill offers to take her time to investigate this scholarship because she has experience with a previous scholarship that had similar vague criteria.

Hopkins suggests to start this process at the first of March to meet for the scholarship criteria. R. Hopkins will send email to the Deans of each college requesting the diversity that each college is looking for to help narrow the search.

Motion approved.

c) Further discussion: none

d) Schedule of next MAC Meeting Friday, March 8th- J. Butler, second S. Lindsey

IV. Adjourn 10:54 am

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by MAC Vice Chair G. Zills

X 

Grace Zills
DNP, FNP-BC