

Multicultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 31st, 2023

9:00am – 9:30am

Committee Members: Alexander, Justin; Butler, Juliette; Byrd, Shinika; Katelyn Ballenger (Proxy for Deamues, Kennedy); Ellis, Minnette; Flippo, Cala; Looser, Melanie; Hopkins, Rebecca; Patel, Dhruvil; Rhodes, Tammy; Sherrill, Lindsey; Zelaya, Karla; Zills, Grace

Meeting started: 9:01

- I. Motion to Approve Agenda: L. Sherril; S. Byrd – Motion Approved
- II. Motion to Approve Minutes from May 4, 2023 meeting: G. Zills, J. Butler – Motion Approved
- III. Committee Charge: [sg-document-2023-24-initial-version.8-1-23.pdf \(una.edu\)](https://una.edu/sg-document-2023-24-initial-version.8-1-23.pdf)
 1. To serve as an advisory committee for the examination of issues of campus diversity and multiculturalism
 2. To gather and review information on University diversity and multiculturalism and assess University performance in these areas in light of the information obtained
 3. To propose changes in campus policies, procedures, and programs related to diversity and multiculturalism
 4. To provide oversight, review, and nomination of the minority recipients of the Major Dwayne Williams Memorial Scholarship
 5. To provide oversight, review, and nomination of the recipient of the President’s Diversity Award to be announced annually at the UNA Awards Gala
 6. To work closely with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion regarding diversity issues
 7. To handle any proposals the committee may make affecting university policy according to section C.2 “Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations”
 8. To submit a final written report electronically by the first day of the fall semester to the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with a copy sent to the Chair of the SGEC
 - a. Discussion: No. 4 and 5 was added last year.
 - b. Action: None
- IV. New Business
 - a. Nomination and Approval of Vice-Chair
Discussion: G. Zills volunteered as Vice Chair.
Action: Motioned J. Butler, C. Flippo; Unanimously voted – Motion Approved
 - b. Ms. Minette Ellis, Interim Chief Diversity Officer, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
 - i. DEI Overview
 - i. Discussion: Board of trustees meeting next week and Minnet Ellis offers she will be the voice for this committee at that meeting. The history of the committee was discussed and new name UNA Diversity and Equity Initiatives. Strategic diversity and inclusion plan that started in 2020 and estimated completion 2025. Work with liaisons and campus directors to

see what has been accomplished, and what is our plan for this year. She is also meeting with the DEI directors from all departments. PMA students Joselyn Wright new director. She meets monthly with Dr. Hunt at the Mitchell West Center for Social Inclusion. She discussed her efforts with various campus and community outreach including UNA Athletics she spoke Greater Shoals Rotary Club. Celebrating the anniversary of Dr. Wendell Gunn on September 11th because of anniversary of the photo of the first day on campus. 10 AM Ceremony. Dr. Gunn will speak, and he was a part of the choir of current students and alumni. This choir "Ascending Voices" has been restarted and will sing the same song that Dr. Gunn sang during his time at UNA. Byrd asked about the choir being Alumni involved, but M. Ellis said alumni will participate just for the Gunn celebration.

- ii. Action: none
- ii. President's Diversity Award - [President's Diversity Award \(una.edu\)](http://una.edu)
 - i. Discussion As we move forward M. Ellis said the previous recipients are posted and next year's applicants will be discussed in the spring. R. Hopkins and G. Zills will meet with M. Ellis to discuss a plan for the award nomination process.
 - ii. Action: None
- iii. Major Dwayne Williams Memorial Scholarship Award
 - i. Discussion: As we move forward M. Ellis said the previous recipients are posted and next year's applicants will be discussed in the spring. R. Hopkins and G. Zills will meet with M. Ellis to discuss a plan for the award nomination process.
 - ii. Action: None
- c. Other Discussion: None
- d. Schedule of next MAC Meeting
 - i. Discussion: Another meeting offered if needed, but will schedule next meeting for January. R. Hopkins mentioned last year's process for reviewing applications. R. Hopkins will send an email to schedule January meeting.
 - ii. Action: None

V. Adjourn: 9:27 J. Butler, S.Byrd.