

Student/Community Relations Commission Minutes

Friday, October 23, 2020 at 3:00 PM

1 Call to Order & Location

Hess called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM in a Zoom Webinar streamed on YouTube Live.

2 Attendance

2.1 Members in attendance

Dr. Matt Arbuckle, Sidra Capriolo, Prue Dana, Zoe Douglas, Glenn Ellerbe, Megan Hess, Amy Macechko, Jennifer Marston, Steve Schnabl, Megan Schoettler, Jonathan Shirley, Sgt. Susan Tobergte, Joy Usner, Dr. Scott Walter, Josephine Webb, Andrew Wilson

2.2 Guests

Jannie Kamara, Trey Petrella

3 Approval of Agenda

Hess asked for a motion to move VII(a) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to after III Approval of October 9, 2020 Minutes.

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve re-ordered agenda by Dana, seconded by Schnabl. Unanimous approval.

4 Approval of October 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

✓ **Vote:** Motion to approve by Webb, seconded by Capriolo. Unanimous approval.

5 Reports

5.1 OPD

Fening was unable to attend but provided a written update that Wilson read. The OPD is wrapping up the investigation into the fight that occurred at the Theta Chi fraternity house and an announcement will be made next week. Wilson also announced that the City issued six citations for mass gatherings and that five had been appealed and won. Commission members questioned who the hearing examiner was working for and Wilson will research and provide an update at the next meeting.

5.2 MUPD

Tobergte advised that COVID-19 numbers were going down on campus and encouraged members to continue to wearing masks. Tobergte stated that bars closing early has caused alcohol violation numbers to go down.

6 Old Business

None.

7 New Business

7.1 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Hess introduced the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion topic and the commission discussed how SCRC and the community can integrate with the initiative. Ellerbe advised that Enjoy Oxford advertises cultural events. Kamara proposed coordinating events between Miami Activities and Programming (MAP) and Enjoy Oxford. Schnabl spoke about the challenges of internet access and advertising events to citizens without internet services. Ellerbe offered that some events are advertised by mail and Kamara spoke about the printed Miami Student newspaper. Webb stated that her sorority would welcome community members to their events and that the community should take advantage of community boards in businesses. Webb spoke about potluck events in which participants bring food that represents their culture and an activity called Blinded. During Blinded participants are blindfolded and share various types of issues transparently. Commission members discussed virtual multicultural events.

Hess asked the commission to speak about how they are inclusive. Dana spoke about getting to know her student neighbors. Kamara encouraged the commission to have conversations, not focus on identity, and attend multicultural events. Walter spoke about the challenges of having these conversations during virtual meetings and physical distancing. Douglas encouraged the commission to be aware of their own biases and actions. Capriolo advised the commission to hold each other accountable and learn from mistakes. Hess questioned how the changes suggested in the report the will be implemented. Schnabl asked that the Diversity & Inclusion Report be shared with the commission for the next meeting. Hess asked that commission members share resources. Schnabl commended the Miami University Performing Arts Series for past performances that were inclusive and educational. The commission discussed symbolic versus substantive or systemic change, and members expressed frustration with diversity statements and the lack of follow through historically. Douglas encouraged members to hold the university accountable in implementing the recommendations.

7.2 On-Campus Q&A

Hess announced that students who are tested for COVID-19 will receive a survey in an effort to get hard data and reduce rumors. Hess spoke about recommendations regarding the disciplinary process and building a coalition of student organizations to improve communications.

Petrella spoke about pool testing that is coming next semester, where ten students are tested at one time and anyone who tests positive is not identified. If any of the ten tests come back positive then the ten students will be asked have full COVID-19 tests. Petrella explained the Miami University residence hall color coding system, how the university reaches out to the students, and the protocols around quarantine and resources provided by Tri-Health and the university. Schnabl expressed concerns about the rising number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations throughout Ohio.

8 Announcements

Hess announced that creative organizations will attend the next meeting to allow them to suggest ways for supporting locally owned businesses. Wilson advised that the business gift card stimulus program has ended but that something will replace the program.

Dana encouraged the commission to vote and vote early.

Schnabl advised that Oxford Seniors is transporting people twice a day to vote early in Hamilton, and announced a second flu shot drive.

Macechko reminded the commission about the Drug Enforcement Agency's National Drug Take Back Day on October 24 and that e-cigarettes are acceptable if batteries are removed.

9 Adjournment

✓ **Vote:** Motion to adjourn by Dana, seconded by Webb. Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.