

**NMSU System Diversity Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2021 Zoom meeting**

**Members Present:**

Denise Rodriguez- Strawn -- College of Education/Diversity Council Chair; Laura Madson -- College of Arts and Sciences & Chair Elect; Michael Ray – American Indian Programs; Laura Castille – Office of Institutional Equity; Carol B. Hicks -- Student Success and Enrollment Management; Vandeen McKenzie -- Employee Council; Sophia Pook --LGBT+ Programs; Kimberly York -- Black Programs; Mariaelena De La Rosa – University Library; Carol Flinchbaugh – College of Business; Laura Bittner -- ACES Representative; Rebecca Silva – NMSU Carlsbad/ Diversity Council Secretary; Ashlerose Francia -- Graduate Student Council; Cynthia Bejarano –Hispanic Faculty/Staff Caucus; Will Waller – Student Accessibility

**Members Absent: --**

Elan Delgadillo – NMSU Grants; Judith Flores Carmona -- Chicano Programs  
Evan Conner – ASNMSU; Stephanie Lynch -- College of Health and Social Services; Phil King -- College of Engineering; Maricruz Aguilar -- Honors' College; Tiffany Flores – ASNMSU VP; Jeanne Garland – Assoc Dir NM AMP; Tara Roofff – NMSU Dona Ana CC; John Idowu -- College of AG; Martha Estrada -- College Assistance Migrant Program; Nicole Gomez – Athletics; Luis Vazquez – Graduate School; Karen Kopera-Frye – Faculty Senate; Hector Sanchez – Military and Veteran's Programs

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 2:06 by the Diversity Council Chair, Denise Rodriguez- Strawn
2. One change to March minutes (i.e., date corrected) Michael Ray motion; Carol Hicks second. Minutes approved as corrected.
3. Announcements
  - Kimberly York: Black Programs series “50 Shades of Blackness” during Real Talk conversations on Friday evenings 5-7pm. April 30 will feature Rep. Sheryl Williams-Stapleton and Sen. Harold Pope, Jr. about recent legislation and implications for Black students, faculty, and staff. All are welcome. May 13 Graduation celebration with Rep Williams-Stapleton as keynote speaker.
  - Michael Ray: Keep it Moving dance fitness series to be released on AIP YouTube channel so more people can participate. AIP also holding a mini Big Read with Brandon Hobson's book *The Removed*; author talk April 22 5:30-6:30pm. Another Dripping Springs/La Cueva hike 4/24 both hikes going simultaneously by different leaders.
  - Rebecca Silva: NMSU-Carlsbad Diversity Pan Asian celebration April 16 3-4pm
  - Carol Hicks: May 6 5-6pm Trio Student Support Services Senior Recognition ceremony recognizing graduates and peer staff workers.
4. Diversity Success Story

Carol Hicks: Revisiting an earlier story of a young woman who couldn't reenroll due to a debt issue; it is now resolved and she's enrolled for Fall.

Denise Rodriguez-Strawn: Recently accepted grad student who is both a person of color and a person with a disability. Student commented that applying to HSI's was challenging but that NMSU faculty and staff were warm and welcoming from her first interactions with us.

## 5. Old Business

Denise Rodriguez-Strawn: Final call for information, programs, etc to include on the final report to President Floros regarding EID activities, which support staff, students and faculty

Update on VP of EID: Denise, Laura, Kimberly, Michael, Zooey, and Judith will meet with Pres. Floros on 4/21 for an update on the search. When these people met with President Floros on Feb. 19, he said he would have more information for us in two weeks, although we've had no update. Laura C. asked if there was any narrowing of the candidate field or plans for candidates to visit. Denise shared that field was narrowed to two people and there was a hope that candidates would visit. Laura C. asked if a summer start date was still the plan. Denise noted to ask President Floros about potential start dates at 4/21 meeting. Michael Ray shared that the search listing is still active on Isaacson Miller's website and on Google Jobs and that there is concern that perhaps additional candidates are being sought. Also, Michael shared that the search committee, DC, and Faculty Senate have heard nothing about the search thus far and it is another example of lack of transparency/communication. Laura C. mentioned in chat that the web page with the posting also lists that the search is "at an advanced stage; however, if you are interested in submitting materials, they will be reviewed until the search is formally closed..." Denise called for additional comments/questions from the Council to ask President Floros on 4/21. Laura C. suggested asking President Floros what the plan is if neither finalist accepts or remains available.

## 6. New Business

Nominations and Voting. Denise called for nominations (and self-nominations) for chair-elect and secretary.

Chair-elect nominations: Laura C. (nominated by Carol Hicks; seconded by Cynthia Bejarano), Kimberly York (nominated by Denise; declined)

Nominations closed by motion by Michael Ray and second by Carol Hicks; Michael Ray called for vote by acclamation; Carol Hicks second. Laura C. elected as chair-elect.

Secretary nominations: Michael Ray proposed postponing nominations for secretary until first DC meeting of '21-'22 academic year when new members nominated by Deans join DC; Denise seconded; motion to postpone passed

## 7. Adjourn 2:42pm Will Waller motion; Michael Ray seconded

Next meeting Wed 5/12 2pm