

# **COSW Meeting Minutes**

**12 Noon, Friday, June 24, 2016, University Club**

**Present:** Jill Adelson, Beth Boehm, Vickie Bridgeman, Debbie Dougherty, Sherry Duffy, Heather Fox, Bob Goldstein, Jeanne Guerrero (Chair), Jennifer Dunlap Hall, Katy Hopkins, Michele Kosiewicz, Keri Mathis, Tawana McWhorter, Desrie Nisbett, Kim Noltemeyer, David Owen, Natalie Pasquenza, Melissa Long Shuter, Mechelle Stoner, Zhihui Sun, Angela Taylor, Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, Deborah Wade, Maggie Walker

**Guests:** Brian Buford (Speaker); Dwayne Compton and Suraj Alexander (CODRE)

**Absent:** Delaina Amos, Kenny Brown, Valerie Casey, Ginevra Courtade, Sally Evans, Ellie Fridell, Seana Golder, Erica Gray, Wayne Hall, Jeanell Hughes, Ann Larson, Kim Maffet, Kenyatta Martin, Meg Peavy, Tamara Russell, Nancy Theriot, Carla Vidoni

## **Welcome**

Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order and welcomed commissioners and guests.

## **Announcements**

Chair Guerrero shared the following announcements:

- Sharon Kerrick's 31-year old daughter (Sarah Spickard Wies) passed away. COSW members recognized Sharon's loss with a moment of silence.
- COSW & CODRE are working with the Office of the President to reschedule the president's presentation. The tentative date is August 15; confirmation will be sent asap. Commissioners are encouraged to submit questions for the president to Chair Guerrero.

## **Minutes**

Sherry made a motion, which Mechelle seconded, to approve the minutes from the May meeting. The motion passed.

## **Guest Speaker - Brian Buford, Asst. Provost for Diversity & Director, LGBT Center**

Chair Guerrero introduced Brian Buford. Brian is Assistant Provost for Diversity and Director of the LGBT Center. With nearly 30 years of service to the university, Brian has dedicated his career to building a campus community where all students, faculty, and staff feel welcome, safe, and included. Key achievements under his leadership include: opening a staffed LGBT Center in 2007, the first of its kind in Kentucky; earning a five-star rating on the Campus Pride index; launching the Bayard Rustin themed housing community for LGBT students and allies, the first of its kind in the south; opening a satellite LGBT Center on the Health Sciences Center campus; partnering with community leaders on Feast on Equality, a signature fundraising event; and being hailed by LEO Weekly as "the most LGBT friendly public university in the south."

As Assistant Provost, Brian guides university departments in creating diversity plans and reviewing progress toward meeting diversity goals; develops and delivers diversity training; serves as chair of the Bias Incident Response Team; and advises the administration on campus climate issues and concerns. He serves the university through his adjunct faculty position in the College of Education, Educational and Counseling Psychology Department, and as a trainer/consultant for the Delphi Center for Teaching and Learning. In 2016 Brian was appointed to the National Diversity Advisory Council for the American Red Cross.

Brian's honors and achievements include: Ally Award, Transwomen National, 2015; Proclamation, Louisville Metro Council, 2014; Humanitarian Award, Association of Black Students, University of Louisville, 2013; Louisville Connector, Leadership Louisville, 2010; Outstanding Service Award, University of Louisville, 1996; Brian counts among his most treasured accomplishments a thru-hike of the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail in 2007 and Spain's 500-mile Camino de Santiago in 2012.

Brian discussed the recent incident in Orlando involving the LGBT and Hispanic/Latino communities, sharing a blood drive information sheet with commissioners. Brian had an interactive presentation with commissioners.

## **COSW Recognitions**

Chair Guerrero reported the following commissioners' terms are ending: Jessica Roth, Erica Gray, Mimi Bell, Ann Larson, and David Owen. COSW will forward the plaques to those who did not attend today. A bouquet of flowers will accompany Ann Larson's plaque recognizing her dedication and leadership in serving COSW as chair.

Chair Guerrero recognized David Owen for his exemplary leadership in COSW, serving as a past chair of Integration for Work and Family committee, and currently serving as the Campus Climate Chair and member of the Executive Committee. During David's tenure (2010-2016), he was instrumental in many aspects of COSW participation. Chair Guerrero presented David with a commemorative plaque and engraved coffee mug.

## **Tentative Dates for 2016-17 Meetings:**

Chair Guerrero referenced the dates of the 2016-17 meetings provided on the agenda which was distributed prior to the meeting. Logistics are being confirmed for the following dates:

- August 26, 2016
- September 23, 2016
- October 28, 2016
- December 2, 2016
- January 27, 2017
- February 24, 2017
- March 24, 2017
- April 28, 2017
- May 26, 2017
- June 23, 2017

## **Old Business/New Business**

Vice Chair Adelson requested committee chairs to submit their annual reports. She encouraged all commissioners to submit their recommendations for speakers/topics through the Survey Monkey link provided; Debbie will re-send to all commissioners.

Chair Guerrero noted the Nominating Committee has provided its slate of nominees for 2016-17 commissioners. She has forwarded that list to the president for consideration.

Michelle reminded commissioners of the Tachau Award nomination process. The deadline for submitting nominees is October 6; she encouraged commissioners to consider nominating people who meet the criteria for the award. The recipient of the award is recognized at the Women's Empowerment Luncheon, which is scheduled on November 16.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.