Diversity Committee Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2014

In attendance:  Ron Welch, Pattie Allen, Mike Croghan, Katie Leslie, Dr. Deborah Davis, Dr. Lee Mayer, Brian Buford, Stacie Steinbock, Dr. Rafael Fernandez-Botran, Dr. Faye Jones, Dr. Emily Tran, Dr. Tom Geoghegan

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Fernandez-Botran with a request to approve the July 2014 Diversity Committee Minutes. The minutes were approved and attention was turned to the agenda items for the day.

Brian Buford, the Assistant Provost for Diversity and Director of the LGBT Center at the University of Louisville, began the meeting by introducing himself to the committee members and explaining his role and support he offers to our committee. Brian’s role is to assist President Ramsey with the item on each Chair’s Scorecard as it relates to diversity. Whether it be setting a plan of action or reporting on progress. Brian sits on 13 of the 24 university committees involved with diversity. Brian reports to Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer the Vice Provost for Diversity & International Affairs. Brian mentioned that we still need to come up with guidelines for other departments here at UofL to measure their involvement in diversity affairs. Dean Toni Ganzel of the Medical School suggested that Dr. Michael Rowland and Dr. Fernandez-Botran meet with her at the Medical Council meetings. Dr. Ganzel wants to be informed of what departments are doing for recruiting for African Americans, Hispanics, Women, and Others.

One major obstacle is how do we measure LGBT? The AAMC is now surveying medical schools across the nation. They then compared responses for LGBT medical students and found out that they encounter more stress and some students are more unstable emotionally. This could result in higher drop-out rates, but more research is needed.

Brian then introduced Stacie Steinbock to the committee members, stating that she serves as the Director of the LGBT Center’s Satellite Office on the Health Sciences Center Campus. Stacie mentioned that she started part-time on the HSC campus and has now developed into her Full-Time position. She mentioned the Safe-Zone training they conduct on campus for 30-50 people at a time and that her office will provide support to students, faculty and staff. Stacie informed us of the upcoming PRIDE WEEK cookout scheduled for September 26th. She also informed us that the LGBT Health and Wellness Certificate Series is underway on campus. It is broken into short-term training components offered in the Fall and Spring Terms to allow participants to gain a LGBT certificate by attending four sessions out of the 10 offered. Topic range from community member panels, to guest speakers from the AAMC, to provider panel discussions and LGBT health disparities discussions.

Planning for the upcoming Cultural Competency Workshop being held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 was discussed by Pattie Allen and Ron Welch. They informed the committee the breakout sessions were still in the planning stages and that there didn’t seem to be any foreseeable problems. Katie Leslie informed the committee that the HSC Office of Diversity and Inclusion office will kick off the Multimedia Project at the Conclusion of the Cultural Competency Workshop day and that a good incentive for
participation would be the offering of prizes for submissions. As a committee we should look into ways to get donations for this project.

The meeting was adjured with the next meeting scheduled for September 25, 2014.