

2018- 2019 Report of the Commission on Human Diversity

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Presented to the Administrative Council
September 27, 2019

MISSION: The Commission on Human Diversity facilitates the development of an environment in which members of the university community are valued and their differences honored. Understanding for and among all groups is pursued through the arrangement and support of special activities such as open forums, diversity dialogues and education workshops that promote awareness and honor of each other's differences. *(We are charged by the President to consider issues related to Religion, Sexuality, and Disability Awareness)*

- I. Membership: The Commission has an active membership of faculty, staff, and students. Some are elected, some are appointed, and we have a number of volunteers. All members attended at least 50% of our meetings and most members attending 100% of our meetings. Committee members also were part of sub-committees for the conference, such as program, budget, and logistics. We meet monthly September – May.

- II. Officers and Composition of the Commission:

Officers: Dr. Mark Wolfmeyer, Chair
 Mr. Jerry Scheerer, Vice-Chair
 Dr. Bob Kilker, Secretary

Composition: 6 Faculty (one from each of the 4 colleges, and two at-large)
 4 Staff (one from SCUPA, one from AFSCME, and two at-large)
 1 Academic Dean or Director

Students: 5 students appointed by the SGB Diversity Council (a least one shall be from a religious based student-organization); 1 non-traditional student (appointed by SGB/KUnited process); 1 graduate student (appointed through SGB/KUnited process).

Other offices may also select a faculty, staff, GA or student as liaisons (non-voting members): Disability Services, GLBTQ Resource Center, Womens' Center, Multicultural Center, Office of International Admissions, Student Affairs/Dean of Students' Office, Lambda, Commission on the Status of Minorities, Commission on the Status of Women.

- III. Issues of concern brought before commission: Beyond our programming role which shifted our focus a few years ago, we continue to be open to any campus constituent to bring matters of concern before the commission relating the diversity of the campus community. However, we continue to discuss the need to cross promote diversity programs and to try other marketing campaigns to get the word out. We offered to help several programs beyond our own.

- IV. 9th Annual Conference, March 1, 2019: Language, Speech, and Human Diversity

- a. Friday, March 3rd from 8:30 to 2. Our early fall meetings generated two topics for a potential theme: free speech and linguistic diversity. We merged the two and retained the general focus of social justice with our theme: Language, Speech, and Human Diversity.
- b. Keynote Speaker : Dr. Nelson Flores, University of Pennsylvania, international expert in applied linguistics. Presented on the intersection of racial and linguistic diversity.
- c. We also had 10 breakout sessions and 1 poster session that students, staff, and faculty could attend. The sessions were presented by a variety of students, staff/faculty, and outside speakers.

- d. Sessions discussed a range of topics such as: gender and free speech, bias-free communication, linguistic capital, literature and social movements, language and social justice education, diversity and geography in literature, #metoo, study abroad and social justice, trans experience, and finding a voice in social justice. The poster session occurred at lunch and was very lively with several undergraduates presenting.
- e. Registration: Approximately 240 participants (preregistered and walk in registered) throughout 8-2 event. More than this number attended.
 - i. Breakdown of attendees (of those who registered/walk-in-181)
 - ii. 199 Undgrad/Graduate Students
 - iii. 35 Faculty / Staff
 - iv. 6 Off-Campus Guests
- f. Breakdown of workshops
 - i. 13 Undergraduate KU Students and 20+ from Dr. Sanelli's WGS class (posters)
 - ii. 5 Doctoral KU Students
 - iii. 2 KU Staff
 - iv. 7 KU Faculty
 - v. 3 Faculty/Community Presenters
 - vi. 145 Pre-Registered and 95 Walk In Registrations = 240 registered attendees. We also know there were even more attending that did not sign in, just came with friends directly to workshops/poster session.

V. Other Activities:

- a. Promoted among the Commission and our respective constituents' programs and campus events related to diversity such as Unity Day and the Bias-Response Task Force
- b. Film night – *Dear white people* organized by CHD Secretary Bob Kilker
- c. Culture Log – Experimental program to encourage KU community to grow in understanding diversity

VI. Future Plans:

- a. 2019-2020 CHD Leadership
Chair: Mark Wolfmeyer
Vice-Chair: Jerry Schearer
Secretary: Deborah Duenyas
- b. SPRING CONFERENCE: Our **10th annual** conference. Theme will celebrate human diversity and 10 years of the annual event. We already have an exciting keynote lined up, someone who works in Harrisburg on issues of diversity and social justice. Too early to announce but very exciting!
- c. Reflecting on our mission statement and interested in cross-committee discussions related to equity, diversity and inclusivity.
- d. Revising website.
- e. Continuing/renewing efforts for liaising with related centers on campus (Disability Services, GLBTQ Resource Center, Womens' Center, Multicultural Center, Office of International Admissions, Student Affairs/Dean of Students' Office, Lambda, Commission on the Status of Minorities, Commission on the Status of Women).

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Mark Wolfmeyer
Chair, Commission on Human Diversity