

**2016-17 Report of the Commission on Human Diversity**  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Presented to the Administrative Council  
September 22, 2017

**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. We meet monthly September – May.

- II. Officers and Composition of the Commission:

Officers: Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Chair

Mr. Jerry Schearer, Vice-Chair

Ms. Connie Lawrence-Gantert, 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. POP up for PEACE DAY-September 21<sup>st</sup> 2017!: The Commission on Human Diversity was a sponsor and host of a collaborative event with the PEACE LOVE and KUTZTOWN initiative, the Kutztown Community Partnership and the Kutztown Area Middle School and High School
  - a. Description: Approximately 34 students from the Kutztown Area Middle School and 10 students from Kutztown High School spent the morning on the MSU Lawn creating

Peace Pinwheels, Buttons for Peace and a Peace Banner to celebrate International Peace Day.

- b. Students from the College of Education and College of Visual and Performing Arts volunteered at the event.
- c. Community members, faculty, staff and Kutztown students “popped in” to make art activities celebrating peace and unity. A large peace symbol was created out of the peace pinwheels, the peace day banner will be hung in the MSU, and many participants walked away with handmade peace day buttons. Tommy Boy’s pizza even created “peace” pizzas with peace symbols made out of the selected topics.

V. 7th Annual Conference, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017: “Sharing Perspectives & Envisioning the Future”

- a. Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 to 3. While our past conference have had specific focuses each year (Muslim Culture; Religion Diversity; Disabilities; and GLBTQ Issues), this year we continued a broader, general them incorporating the concept of Social Justice on a wide variety of issues.
- b. Keynote Speaker : Quanisha Green
- c. We also had 4 sessions 11 workshops that students, staff, and faculty could attend. The workshops were presented by a variety of students, staff/faculty, and outside speakers.
- d. Workshops discussed a range of topics such as: Using Photographs to Teach Social Justice to Explore Identity, Writing Wrongs, Faith on Campus, In Pursuit of Social Justice: The Application of Relational Cultural Theory to Diverse Contexts, Diversifying American Literature, The Empathy Game, A Qualitative Investigation Into Barriers to Substance Abuse Treatment in Berks County, Using NPR’s Code Switch Podcast to Facilitate Class Discussions, Immigration Policy as Inclusion Policy, “Hear Us”, Be the Change, The Importance of Social Identity and Self-Awareness to Social Change and Justice.
- e. Registration: Approximately 150 to 200 participants throughout the day long event.

VI. Other Activities:

- a. Promoted among the Commission and our respective constituents programs and campus events related to diversity including, but not limited to events from the Commission on the Status of Women, Commission on the Status of Minorities, the GLBTQ Resource Center, the Women’s Center, the Multicultural Center, Housing, and ACE.
- b. Under the direction of the Committee on Committees we updated our bylaws.
- c. As requested by the new Institutional Climate Committee; we have a representative from the CHD now serving on the ICC, and then reporting back to the CHD.

VII. Future Plans:

- a. SPRING CONFERENCE: TBD
- b. October 19<sup>th</sup>-Film and Panel: Sharadin Art Building, 120 6-9pm
  - i. Organized by Bob! Kilker and Amanda Morris, Soup Dinner and a Movie
- c. Human Library, Rohrbach Library, 10-2 (approximately).
- d. Collaborative Event between ICC, APSCUF Social Justice Committee-in the planning process.

Respectfully Submitted-Dr. Amy Pfeiler-Wunder, Chair of the Commission on Human Diversity