

2020-2021 Report of the Commission on Human Diversity
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Presented to the Administrative Council
October 21, 2021

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, AY 2020-2021:

Officers: Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler, Chair
 Dr. Paige Brookins, Vice-Chair
 Dr. Deborah Duenyas, 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. 11th Annual Conference, February 26, 2021: Diversity in a Virtual World: Toward Equity and Inclusion

- a. The first virtual conference; the previous 10 conferences have been in person.
- b. Friday, February 26 from 9 to 3. Our early fall meetings generated the need for an open theme to celebrate our 11th year of the conference.
- c. AM Keynote Speaker: Dr. Denise Pearson, Vice Chancellor and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, PASSHE
- d. PM Keynote Speaker: Dr. William F. Tate, IV, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs at the University of South Carolina.

- e. We also had 17 breakout sessions that students, staff, and faculty could attend. The sessions were presented by a variety of students, staff/faculty, and outside speakers.
 - f. A few hundred individuals attended the conference.
 - g. Breakdown of presenters of workshops
 - i. 2 Undergraduate KU Students
 - ii. 10 Doctoral KU Students
 - iii. 4 KU Staff
 - iv. 3 KU Faculty
 - v. 14 Faculty from other colleges/universities
 - vi. 3 Local community members
 - vii. 1 PASSHE administrator
 - h. Attachment – see 11th annual conference program.
- V. Other CHD 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. Social Justice Award: 2020 winner Santana Outlaw; 2021 winner Erica Cohen Hamilton; Planning to announce nominations in Fall 2021 semester.
 - c. Revised and keep website up to date with all minutes and agendas, past conference programs, social justice award.
- VI. Future Plans:
- a. 2021-2022 CHD Leadership
Chair: Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler
Vice-Chair: Dr. Patricia Brenner
Secretary: Hannah Hotalen
 - b. SPRING CONFERENCE: Our **12th annual** conference. Theme and conference details to be determined at October meeting.
 - 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. Stephen W. Stoeffler
Chair, Commission on Human Diversity