

Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Senate of the Associated Students 88th Session Minutes for Monday,
August 31st, at 10 A.M. Zoom Meeting: Email Vanessa Ribeiro at
senatorribeiro@asun.unr.edu

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Senator Ribeiro called the meeting of Committee of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to order on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 10:02 am. Attending secretary Mackenzie Zappe.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Senator Ribeiro, Senator Abrams, Senator, Keller, Senator Lopez, Senator Luers, Senator Priess, and Senator Torres were present.

Senator Harvey was absent excused.

A quorum was present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

4. **MINUTES**

There were no new minutes to be approved at this time.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Liaison Positions**

Senator Ribeiro reviewed and confirmed previously appointed liaison positions.

Senator Torres confirmed her liaison positions for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and for the Disability Resource Center.

Senator Ribeiro confirmed her liaison positions for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and for The Center. She also confirmed the liaison positions for Senator Harvey (absent excused) which were for The Center and the Gender, Race, and Identity, Department.

Director Bajwa confirmed her liaison position for the ASUN Department of Diversity and Inclusion

Senator Keller confirmed her liaison positions for the First-Generation Student Center and the Veteran's Services.

Senator Luers confirmed his liaison positions for the First-Generation Student Center and the Disability Resource Center.

Senator Priess confirmed her liaison positions for the First-Generation Student Center and the Office of International Students and Scholars.



The new senators to the committee selected their liaison positions.

Senator Abrams chose Veteran's Services and the Office of International Students and Scholars.

Senator Lopez chose Veteran's Services and the Office of International Students and Scholars.

b. Update on Committee Trainings

Senator Ribeiro updated the rest of the committee about her meetings with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and The Center. She explained that the proposed summer training did not happen due to adapting to the virtual climate. Senator Ribeiro revealed her goals for the type of training the committee was to receive which included learning how to make welcoming spaces for student differences and culturally cognizant outreach. Furthermore, she opened up the discussion to the group to discuss the type of trainings they hope to receive as a part of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Senator Torres mentioned the student committee Every Voice Nevada which deals with sexual assault advocacy and legislation. She asked Senator Ribeiro if she should reach out to this committee to receive training regarding how to handle Title IX and sexual assault survivors.

Senator Ribeiro applauded this idea and mentioned the future agenda item to discuss committee overlook. She then went to explain the general training offered by the Department of Diversity and Inclusion which includes topics such as microaggressions, implicit bias, and inclusive/diversity in leadership training. The Center offers UnDocuAlly, LGBTQ, and Safe Zone trainings.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Senator Updates

Senator Ribeiro asked the members to share their current projects and student outreach as they relate to the Committee of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She also encouraged them to mention any programs they wished the committee to see this semester.

Senator Torres mentioned that she and Senator Priess are working on implementing racism into the curriculum which is going to be legislation for the Nevada State legislature. She also said they are working on the legislation to reallocate the budget concerning Black Lives Matter.

Senator Luers said he is working with Senator Stoddard and Director Rangel on social justice initiatives. One of the initiatives is to rename N. Virginia street and the roundabout entrance to the Joe to be Social Justice Way and Collin Kaepernick Drive. The second initiative is to paint the Joe roundabout sidewalk to represent the LGBTQI+ community. He hoped these initiatives will lead to new things in the Nevada legislature and the upcoming gateway district.

Senator Priess acknowledged the two pieces of legislation her and Senator Torres mentioned in her update. She also mentioned that she has been working on getting a scholarship for undocumented students for a while but said that the better route is to raise more money via COVID-19 funding for DACA students because ASUN cannot give them money.

Senator Keller celebrated the fact that her first piece of legislature was passed last week. She has also been trying to get in touch with a variety of clubs on campus, including ABLE women. She stated her legislation research concerning the Nevada Dream Act and how she

looked at UNLV's condom bar. She brainstormed options to incorporate the idea onto UNR's campus to include both protection and safe sex information.

Senator Abrams stated that he is doing outreach for Academics and Student Affairs. He relayed the students concerns about pass/fail grades and the semantics of last semester.

Senator Lopez said he has been doing student outreach via zoom and in person at the College of Science. He has been working to get comfortable with the virtual formatting of everything.

Senator Ribeiro asked both Senator Abrams and Senator Lopez what their goals for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee are.

Senator Lopez stated that he wishes to learn more about the resources available o campus and then focus on in person accommodations needed to reach out to people.

Senator Abrams stated that he also wants to learn more about the resources and to support the different initiatives in action currently. Another one of his goals is to maybe push for a Collin Kaepernick statue on campus.

Senator Torres mentioned that her and President hall have been working on the Kaepernick statue initiative. She also announced that today they were going to have their first Police Task Force meeting and encouraged other senators to join.

b. Committee Overlook

Senator Ribeiro opened a discussion to determine what type of speakers the committee wants to see this semester.

Senator Torres mentioned that both the GRI department and their president, Indigo would be an interesting addition to the meetings.

Senator Keller suggested contacting club leaders of clubs with minimal recognition to come in.

Senator Torres also suggested Black Student Organization members to come in.

Senator Luers suggested contacting Alumni who are working on campus, for example, Dennis Green, to voice concerns they saw in their time and to emphasize persistent problems still relevant today.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Ribeiro opened up a discussion about the definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Senator Keller analogized the three words to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit by means that all three words are equally important and impactful to a community. She defined diversity as having everyone at the table and in the conversation.

Senator Ribeiro corrected the definition to be more aligned to Inclusion and continued to emphasis that there exists a difference between them as seen in their goals.

Senator Luers defined diversity as identify/addressing a diversity population. He further defined inclusion to mean taking the actual steps to include the diverse population. He defined the last step as equity to be the main mission of the committee.

Senator Lopez defined diversity in regard to the freedom of ideas and the ability to openly share them without being digressed on. He defined inclusion and equity to be the ability to express them on an even playing field.

Senator Priess defined diversity as celebrating differences, equity as people being equal, and inclusion as including everyone.

Senator Ribeiro further defined these words and emphasized their differences. She defined diversity as the culmination of the ideas, identities, backgrounds, and affiliations. She defined equity as what is done with the culmination of ideas and if each idea has a fair seat at the table to be heard. She defined inclusion as implementing these ideas so everyone feels welcomed and celebrated. In summary, she stated that diversity is when everyone is invited to the party, equity is when everyone gets to contribute to the playlist, and inclusion is when everyone has the opportunity to dance.

Senator Ribeiro extended a warm welcome to Senators Abram and Senator Lopez as well as the committee secretary Mackenzie.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Senator Ribeiro adjourned the committee meeting on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at 10:37am on Monday August 31st.

