

Faculty Senate Committee on Diversity & Internationalization

November 8, 2021

Present: Erin Williams, Essence Collins, [Anne Barnhart](#), [Lourdes Cody](#), michael hester (chair), [Chelsea Morris](#), [Taylor Bryant](#), Julie Talbot, Satyanarayana Mruthinti

Notes:

1. Meeting called to order at 12:02pm
2. Seamless Integration Team. michael hester Erin Williams, who serves as part of the leadership of the Seamless Integration Team (SIT) updated FSCDI on that group, including its makeup (approximately 22 members), its leadership (Erin, Rahmel Cowen, Natasha Ramsay-Jordan, Andrea Smith), and its schedule (have met 4-5 times since its formation, the first two with Dr. Kelly). As of now, the recommendations expected to come from that group include the following:
 - Requesting information on the status of the reorganization of CDI
 - Development of training curriculum as part of the onboarding process for new faculty members
 - Better coordination and communication among various departments across campus that are doing DEI work
 - An update on the website (<https://www.westga.edu/diversity/>) currently available on the UWG site, specifically asking for details on who manages the site and how it will be used moving forward

Multiple FSCDI members questioned the role of FSCDI in upper administration's plans for campus DEI efforts, with Lourdes Cody urging for better coordination and transparency and Swamy Mruthinti emphasizing the need for clear guidelines so that FSCDI does not become a 'shell' unit with no power or purpose. Both of these comments received unanimous agreement from those in attendance

3. OEA Director. General discussion ensued regarding updates on the search, with the acknowledgement that a new director has been hired (that information was announced on Tuesday). It was reaffirmed that the FSCDI will invite the new director to the next FSCDI meeting (the new director, Dr. Gaquere-Parker, agreed to meet with the FSCDI on Nov 29).
4. New Business.
 - a. Taylor Bryant asked about the recent work done by the outside consultant, and whether the presentation by Dr. Jason Meriwether included any recommendations related to DEI. Discussion ensued regarding the work of that consultant.
 - b. Queries by members about International Student Enrollment were later addressed by Brett Reichert, who was unable to attend the meeting in

person, but followed up with the following - “our 2020 Fall and prior Fall enrollment is posted here at the bottom:

<https://www.westga.edu/isap/mission.php>

For Fall 2021 we managed to stay about the same as last Fall based on the funnel we had built up and strived to retain through the pandemic.”

5. AY23 FSCDI Chair. Updates were provided regarding the need to elect a chair for the next academic year. The current chair invited nominations, an open call that will continue until our next meeting. Swamy Mruthinti nominated michael hester, who accepted and indicated a willingness to continue as chair unless someone else is interested in the position.
6. The meeting was adjourned at 12:49pm