January Update from the President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion

The President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion met on January 16. The Commission’s Campus Climate Survey Executive Summary was distributed on December 18 to the University community and beyond through University Communications. A copy of the Executive Summary is available at http://www.murraystate.edu/PCDI/2014survey/executive-summary-campus-climate.pdf.

The Commission discussed 2015-2016 priority budget requests and developed a process to rank items for submission within one week from the meeting date.

The Commission continued efforts for the next iteration of the Diversity Plan through four Workgroups (Student Body Diversity, Student Success, Workforce Diversity, and Campus Climate) and set up a progress meeting for the Commission leadership, Workgroup co-chairs, and the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Access on January 23. Details regarding plan requirements are still being discussed at the Council on Postsecondary Education and a due date for institutional plans has not yet been set.

The Commission decided the Awards Committee will begin meeting soon to facilitate the process of soliciting nominations and jurying nominees to select this year’s recipients. Nominations are being accepted in three categories: faculty/exempt-staff, non-exempt staff, and students. Each recipient will receive a $1,000 stipend and be recognized through various institutional events. More information about the President’s Awards for Diversity and Inclusion is available online at http://www.murraystate.edu/Libraries/Presidential_Search_Documents/PCDI_Award_Guidelines_Revised_September_2013_1.sflb.ashx.

The Commission’s Trainings Committee reported that progress continues with Human Resources to develop a training program on diversity. The Commission will receive a demonstration of the training in February. Plans remain to have this training program go live later this spring for supervisory personnel.

The Commission received information about the array of programs throughout the spring that are included on the MLK, Jr. Celebration and Black Heritage Celebration Calendar. More information on this is available at https://www.smore.com/4btk9-celebrate-diversity.

The Commission’s next meeting is February 20. Any questions regarding the Commission may be directed to Chair Don Robertson at drobertson@murraystate.edu.