Update from the President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion

The President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion met on May 22.

The Commission received a report from member Robin Zhang pertaining to further analysis of the Campus Climate Survey results. As part of preparing an external grant proposal, Dr. Zhang and several colleagues examined the difference in responses of participants based on self-reported gender. After discussion, the Commission decided to include further review of the information presented and possibly expand the scope to review the survey results of other subpopulations during the Commission’s summer retreat.

The Chair discussed preparations of the Commission’s annual report and recommendations for next year. The discussion included ideas on how to improve efficiency and effectiveness through collaboration with the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA). As for structure, the Commission recommended that the President establish a term of service (i.e. three years) for the Commission and implement a staggered rotation of service for continuity.

It was reported that Jo Bennett, junior Art major, was presented with the President’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion in the student category at Senior Breakfast.

The Commission heard a report from the Commission’s Committee on Disabilities pertaining to the needs of some students at Murray State’s regional campuses.

An update was given on the diversity training program for supervisors being developed by Human Resources with the support of the Commission’s Committee on Trainings. Plans remain on track to launch during the fall semester.

The Commission’s will not hold a regular meeting in June as that time will be utilized by the Workgroup Leaders working on the next iteration of the Diversity Plan to meet. The Commission will hold its annual retreat on July 24. Any questions regarding the Commission may be directed to Chair Don Robertson at drobertson@murraystate.edu.