

*CU Denver DDC FA LGBTQ+ Committee
Meeting Minutes September 11, 2020*

Call to order and attendance, 11:00 AM.

Present: Nate, Dale, Nicky, Katy, Mia, Maren, Ryan, Shea, Marty

Agenda

1. Introductions and approval of ex-officio membership
2. Updates from Faculty Assembly
3. Committee projects for the fall

Minutes

1. Committee unanimously approved ex-officio membership for Maren Scull.
2. Updates from Faculty Assembly
 - a. Vice Chancellor of Diversity & Inclusion (hereafter: VCDI)
 - i. Chancellor committed to a transparent and more inclusive process, including broader representation on the search committee.
 - ii. Let's keep tabs on this. Mia noted that the Provost had not formally replied to any of the letters from the spring about the position, and there are questions as to his level of involvement in the search.
 - b. Online acceleration paused – there may be an opening for more advocacy.
 - c. “Purple ink” memo regarding university communications at Dean’s level and above. Memo requires communications to be centralized through the president’s office.
 - i. LGBTQ issues noted as one of a number of “sensitive” topics. Mia: Even if the memo has been watered down or rephrased, the overall push is one of censorship, which may lead administration to self-censorship.
 1. Other groups on campus (re: Katy and Shea) have started asking university community members to raise concerns about the memo through a letter-writing campaign.
 2. Committee endorsed a letter of concern to FA. Committee will vote on letter by email and seek Ethnic Diversity Committee’s (EDC) support.
 3. Chair will try to get the letter and discussion of the memo on the FA agenda for October.
3. Agenda items for the fall semester
 - a. Pursue discussion and advocacy regarding “purple ink” memo; actions noted above.
 - b. Surveillance tech and online teaching
 - i. Committee discussed efforts on this front. Shea has earned more support for his letter seeking greater oversight and a ban on online proctoring software, including from Dept. of Economics (Ryan).
 1. Nate noted new awareness of the effect on students because of widespread remote/online teaching, which led to Maren’s note that

student harm could be an effective angle for building awareness on this issue.

- a. Committee endorsed connecting to student government to raise concerns about these technologies (Shea will take lead).
2. Mia also noted that an effort could be made to offer faculty alternative pedagogical methods, which would reduce the need and support for some of these technologies.
 - a. Chair's added note for next meeting: perhaps we could get one of the professional development centers (CFDA, CETL, or whatever they are now called) to concentrate on this? We need more than a one-off Zoom meeting, though – a webinar or resources page?
- c. Pronouns and gender inclusion
 - i. Katy has been making efforts to introduce students to ways to input pronouns into university systems. This effort has been limited thus far to certain classes but needs to be expanded.
 1. Shea noted the complexity of getting university systems talking to one another; it is likely that full compliance is years out, complicated both by technical issues and a lack of urgency on the part of stakeholders.
 - ii. Katy would like to find new ways of encouraging greater student and faculty education about gender pronouns, including not only ways to provide the proper information to vital university systems, but also a mandatory training for faculty on gender inclusion.
 1. Committee endorsed raising the issue at the next FA for discussion, Katy to present.
 2. Committee also endorsed inviting First-Year Experience officers to our next meeting to discuss how to better inform students.