

2018-2019
University of Alabama
Faculty Senate
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Annual Report

Mirit Eyal-Cohen & Osiris Molina, Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Kelly Guyotte, Sheila Black, Ignacio Rodeno, Melvin Lewis, Anne Levy

The committee continued to work closely with Dr. Christine Taylor, Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The committee met monthly with Dr. Taylor maintaining open dialogue between her office and the faculty in discussing campus incidents as well as proposed initiatives as they relate to diversity, equity and inclusion. Throughout the year the committee served as a sounding board for Dr. Taylor's office in all aspects including, but not limited to, addressing student behavior issues to faculty recommendations for promoting diversity and equity issues in and out of the classroom. The committee suggested to Dr. Taylor to transform the isolated Holocaust Remembrance events occurring at the law school to a university-wide event. The committee co-chair Mirit Eyal-Cohen organized a series of meetings between Dr. Taylor, the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center, Jewish Students organizations, and other stakeholders to form a planning committee for such events. On April 9, 2019, the committee along with Dr. Taylor and the abovementioned participants successfully held a university-wide Holocaust Remembrance event at the Ferguson Center with second-generation survivor speaker, UA officials, and good crowd of students. The event was a success and the planning committee has already started working with Dr. Taylor on a similar event for next year.

The committee met with the Crossroads Center and its director, Lane McClelland to discuss its efforts to bolster diversity at UA. Lane mentioned there is a need to create greater awareness and connectivity on campus. The committee noted there have been few affinity groups on campus aside from the Black Faculty Staff Association ("BFSA") and the LGBT Faculty Staff association (Capstone Alliance). The committee took upon itself to bolster more affinity groups on campus. This year the committee has been working with BFSA to study their structure and operations and has contacted many prospective faculty and staff members who agreed to serve as officers on

their respective affinity groups. The committee hopes to continue to work on this endeavor and present to the Senate the new affinity groups on campus.

In hope of adding diversity component to the university core curriculum the committee co-chair Osiris Molina agreed to take part of a University-wide task force for curriculum reform. We are looking forward to his input on way to improve such endeavor.

The committee has high hopes and commitment to making a difference for all university constituents. We look forward to continued success in 2018-2019.