

UTK Faculty Senate Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion

Task Force Charge

The charge of the Diversity Task Force was formed in the spring of 2016 to proactively support diversity and inclusion at UTK, and to plan responses to legislative or other developments related to diversity and inclusion, and to decide over the following academic year whether there should be a standing committee, that is, a Senate Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Task Force Members:

Beauvais Lyons, Faculty Senate President Elect, blyons@utk.edu (Chair)

Brian Ambroziak, at-large Senator, bambrozi@utk.edu

Monica Black, at-large Senator, mblack9@utk.edu

Michelle Kwon, at-large Senator, mkwon2@utk.edu

Lou Gross, Budget and Planning Committee, lgross@utk.edu

Jenny Fowler, Faculty Affairs, jcfowler@tennessee.edu

Samantha Murphy, Teaching and Learning Council, smurph19@utk.edu

Joanne Hall, AAUP President, jhall7@utk.edu

Greg Kaplan, Hillel Center, gkaplan@utk.edu

Mary McAlpin, SEAT, mmcalpin@utk.edu

Note: Faculty Senate President Bonnie Ownley served on the Task Force during the month of June.

Diversity at Tennessee:

<http://senate.utk.edu/diversity-at-tennessee/>

Summer 2016 Report:

In response to the Tennessee Public Charter 1066, this summer the Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion focused its efforts on supporting the UT Pride Center; meeting with the Pride Ambassadors, Donna Braquet and other liaisons; working to establish an advisory board for the Center; holding a public forum on June 17th to give the campus and local community information on the work of the UT Pride Center; and drafting resolutions from the Faculty Senate Executive Council to campus and system leaders in support of the Pride Center. The Task Force encouraged a strong presence in support of Diversity and Inclusion at the UT Board of Trustee meetings held June 22-23. Activities by the Task Force have been covered in local and national media, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The Task Force has developed a FAQ for faculty on the legal implications of Public Chapter 1066 and proposed language for faculty syllabi on accommodating student name and pronoun requests which may not be consistent with class rolls. The Task Force has strongly advocated for the importance of having a robust, well-funded Pride Center as part of the Vol Vision 2020 Plan.