

The University Diversity and Equity Committee

MINUTES	
Date: May 7, 2026	Time: 1:00-2:00 pm
Location: MS Teams	Meeting Lead: Dr. Asma Sayed
Contact: udec@kpu.ca	UDEC SharePoint

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

- Provided by Dr. Asma Sayed.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Approved.

3. Approval of [Minutes from March](#)

- Approved.

4. VP, EIC Report – Dr. Asma Sayed

- OEIC Staffing Update: Jessie Malli is now the new Executive Assistant to the VP, Equity and Inclusive Communities. Zahra Mohamud has transitioned into the role of Advisor, Anti-racism and Anti-Oppression. Asma welcomed Jessie to the office and noted that anyone needing to contact her should reach out to Jessie going forward.
- President Diane Purvey was unable to do attend today's meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The President sent her regrets and plans to attend the June meeting.
- May is recognized as both [Asian Heritage Month](#) and [Canadian Jewish Heritage Month](#). Two Today@ announcements featuring related resources have been shared, and members are encouraged to circulate these resources within their units.
- VP Sayed highlighted the success of the Fourth Annual Anti-Racism Symposium on March 23rd which brought in over 200 attendees, strong feedback, and a well-received keynote.
 - o A recording of the event can be found on the [OEIC events webpage](#).
 - o Next year's symposium is scheduled for Tuesday March 23, 2027.
 - o The inaugural [Black Excellence Awards](#) were presented during the fourth annual anti-racism symposium. One faculty member and six students were awarded this year and the awards will continue to be presented annually.
- The [RISE Community of Practice](#) continues to provide a supportive space for racialized employees, with plans to expand engagement.
- Asma and Zahra will attend the [2026 Inter-Institutional Forum of the Scarborough Charter on Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion in Canadian Higher Education](#) in Ottawa and will provide an update at the June meeting.

- OEIC participated in several community events over the past two months, including the annual Vaisakhi Parade, the DARPAN Magazine Power Women of Influence Gala, a panel on caste discrimination, and collaborated with PICS (Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society) on an anti-racism art exhibition in Surrey.
- **Action Item:** UDEC members expressed interest in further education on the Indian caste system. The possibility of organizing a workshop or speaker session on the topic will be explored.

5. OEIC Portfolio Updates – Trina Prince

- An advisory committee has been established for the Gender and Sexual Equity Action Plan.
 - o The first meeting is scheduled before summer, with full implementation work beginning in September.
- Policy development work continues on the Trans Inclusion Policy and the Disability Justice and Accessibility Policy.
 - o Both policies are currently in development prior to consultation.
- The Teaching and Learning Commons has nearly completed the first review cycle of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Competencies Learning Program with positive feedback from participants.
 - o A new four-month cohort will launch in September. Promotion and registration details will be shared by email.
- Relearning Gender Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, from 10:00–11:30 a.m., and will be held in recognition of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (May 15).
 - o OEIC will also attend the Community IDAHOBIT breakfast event.
- First Gender and Sexual Equity Symposium planned for October 29th. This half-day initiative will be announced soon with more details.
- The Pride Peer Program has transitioned from Student Health to OEIC. The transition aims to support long-term sustainability and funding of the program, and continues to build on the successful work led by Shalini and Carolina.
 - o OEIC is currently working with six student peers and expanding the program's impact.
- Week-long AccessAbility Week (May 31 – June 6) programming to recognize and promote disability justice and accessibility at KPU.
 - o First “Understanding Disability Justice Introduction” workshop scheduled for Wednesday, June 3 at 11:00 a.m. This one-hour online session is for employees, followed by a session for students June 3 at 4:30 p.m.
 - o Departments may also request customized workshops for their teams.
 - o Accessibility Week Activities are listed on the [OEIC events page](#).

6. New Business

- a. UDEC Sponsorship Fund Application – Larissa Petrillo (Gaming, Accessibility, and Inclusion)
 - i. Funding approved.
 - b. OEIC Sponsorship Fund Application – Maddie Knickerbocker (Queer History Walking Tour)
 - i. Funding approved.
 - c. UDEC Sponsorship Fund Application – Maddie Knickerbocker (Jamey Jesperson Guest Speaker for Pride Month)
 - i. Funding approved.
- **Action Item:** Zahra to prepare award letters for all three fund awardees.

7. Information Sharing and Updates

- Committee chair discussed ongoing challenges with receiving responses to calls for agenda items and unit updates, which has resulted in significant follow-up work and inconsistent reporting across meetings.
 - o **Action Item:** Asma and Zahra will develop a new process for scheduling regular reports from members.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.