

The University Diversity and Equity Committee

Date: March 6, 2025	Time: 2:00-3:00 pm
Location: MS Teams	Meeting Lead: Dr. Asma Sayed, VP EIC
Contact: udec@kpu.ca	
UDEC SharePoint: https://kpuemp.sharepoint.com/sites/committees/udec	

Minutes
1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement - Provided by VP Sayed
2. Approval of Agenda - Approved
3. Approval of Minutes - Approved
4. VP, OEIC Report - Workshops Completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Black History Month Events: Three workshops led by Dr. Nicole Kaniki. ○ Accessibility Training: Four workshops led by Tim Reitsma. ○ Two workshops led by Trina Prince during the Faculty Connect event on February 20th, with two additional workshops scheduled for March during SDG month. ○ Additional learning opportunities are being finalized for the new fiscal year, with new subject matters and facilitators. - Anti-Racism Symposium (March 21): Keynote speaker MLA George Anderson and Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism, Jessie Sunner, will speak. Registration will open soon. The event will feature presentations by students and employees, along with the release of the Anti-Racism Toolkit.

- **Annual Report (2024):** Asma shared a few highlights from the OEIC Annual Report for 2024. A finalized version will be created in the near future and shared via newsletter.
- **Job Posting:** A Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator position within the OEIC has been posted. Internal deadline is this Friday March 7th, external deadline March 14th.
- **General Updates:**
 - o The Social Justice Music Festival organized by Gordon Cobb, is set for March 13.
 - o The South Asian Art Festival co-organized by VP Sayed is set for April 9 and 11. The festival will feature literary readings, live music, and dance performances by students.
 - o SDG Month events are happening across the institution. Participation is encouraged. [A calendar of events can be found here.](#)
 - o The Islamic month of Ramadan has begun, and practicing Muslims will be fasting from February 28 through the end of March. VP Sayed reminded everyone to be mindful of students and colleagues who may be observing the fast during this time.

5. Committee Updates – Trina Prince

- **Accessibility Consultation Committee:** The first meeting was held on February 24th. The committee will meet bi-monthly to review projects, initiatives, and programs from an accessibility and disability justice perspective. Requests for consultation can be sent to oeic@kpu.ca
- **AccessAbility Week:** The OEIC is working on a schedule of events and activities for AccessAbility Week (May, 26-30). Updates coming soon.
- **Academic Ableism Workshop:** Lisa Gedak, Fiona Whittington-Walsh and Trina are developing an academic ableism workshop. It will first be available to faculty, with the hope to expand it to other KPU employees in the future.
- **Gender and Sexual Equity Advocacy Award:** A total of 10 awards of approximately \$1,000.00 each are available to 2SLGBTQIA+ KPU students who have shown leadership in and/or a commitment to 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy and activism at KPU and/or in their local communities. Applications have been received and are being reviewed.
- **Pride:** KPU will be involved in local Pride events this summer. KPU will also be involved in Surrey Pride's "So You Think You Can Drag" charity event. Trina will represent KPU as a drag king, performing under the name "Prince of Whales," and will help raise money for the Sexual Violence Support Center.
- **2SLGBTQIA+ Competencies Program:** A 16-week asynchronous program to enhance competencies for working with 2SLGBTQIA+ communities will launch this summer.

6. New Business

- a. UDEC Sponsorship Application – Jen Currin - *Autofiction and Writing Queer Stories with Corinne Manning*
 - o Application has been approved.
 - o Action Item: Zahra to send award letter to applicant.

7. Information Sharing and Updates

- Nishan Perera: Teaching and Learning Commons has published a suite of resources created to support technology and accessibility for learning. More information can be found here on the [Teaching and Learning website](#).
- Joshua Mitchell: KPU Tech now has a dedicated prayer and meditation space on campus. [An announcement about the space can be found here on Today@](#).
- Natalie Wood-Wiens: A new resource, *Decolonizing Educational Practices*, was launched at the Faculty Connect event on February 20th. [The guide can be found here](#).
- Fiona Whittington-Walsh: Dr. Rheanna Robinson, a disabled Indigenous scholar, will visit KPU on March 24th. Fiona, Dr. Robinson, and Dr. Jennifer Hardwick are creating educational resources on Indigenous disability models, including a children's book by Dr. Robson. Fiona will share details for faculty to meet Dr. Robson, who will bring copies of her book.

8. Adjournment