

For Immediate Release

The CIE met on April 21st for continued discussion of short and long-term plans. Allie gave an update on the proseminar. She communicated with Dr. McGee who has involved Bill Flora. She is awaiting a response about the 0-credit hour option for the proseminar. She and the task force will share the update with the department at next week's meeting.

The grad student reps to the CIE gave an update on their conversation about clarifying their role within the committee. The main goal is to be a liaison between the CIE and the grad students in experimental and clinical concentrations. They will create a brief list that can serve as a guidance document to future student reps about how they can best create a path of communication between them and the students in order to share what CIE is working on and also to solicit feedback from them.

The majority of the hour was focused on updates about plans and initiatives – part of the strategic planning process CIE is undergoing. Jill gave an update on the ADHD panel she is organizing for Fall 2023. Dr. Byrd, the Dean of Students, has been tasked to create short videos about disability for the university community. So, disability-related content is timely for the university. Dr. Byrd asked Jill to expand the reach of the ADHD panel. Mary Little of Disability Services will now be involved in it. As well, the entire campus community will be encouraged to attend. The first of two panels will be held in August with the second in October (which is Disability Awareness Month).

Dr. Wyatt also will be leading a colloquium for the department in September. She will be one of two initial proseminar talks. Dr. Wyatt has been nominated for the university's visiting scholar position. She will address the top two content areas identified by the department as being of interest for continuing education. The second will be the grad student research award recipient (Rachel Carpenter). Both of these will take place on Tuesdays at noon in September, two weeks apart.

Stacey will be investigating options for creating a diversity champion award for the department. She will touch base with Natasha about the process for creating a monetary-based award through a Foundation account and this process will be considered in addition to a non-monetary award option.

Also discussed was whether we have permission to add questions to the student course evaluations. Matt is going to discuss this question with Cheri Clavier, to investigate options.

The rest of the time was used to review the draft table Stacey created to assist the committee's process of translating the large toolkit-based table they have been working on into actual SMART goals and initiatives with potential impacts that could be assessed. Some additions were made to it. Stacey asked that between now and our last meeting in early May that the committee members take time to digest the table so that additional edits can be made during our final meeting, which will allow for a solid starting place when returning to it in Fall semester. The committee members are invited to work on CIE initiatives over the summer if they fits best with their schedule, but not a requirement. Allie volunteered to work on the peer mentoring program idea and Matt offered to continue investigating the curriculum incentive options for infusing diversity into courses. Stacey will be collecting assessment items to track climate in future surveys. The committee will also create a welcome packet for new students that integrates some of the resources from the Clemmer College resource guide, in addition to others.

Finally, it was suggested that the CIE move forward with collecting diversity survey data from grad students this Spring, then in Fall semester more climate-specific questions can be distributed that can be used to track change over time once implementing initiatives.