

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department Addresses Climate Concerns and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The CIE is committed to addressing the pressing issue of department climate and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. At a recent meeting, plans were further developed based on the ideas generated in the previous meeting to move forward with the department's vision.

To ensure effective communication of CIE activities within the department, the first order of business was a summary of ways to communicate with the faculty. The CIE sent out its first "press release" on February 3, 2023 and is consulting with ITS to better utilize the department's website for regular updates. The CIE will continue to have agenda item(s) at faculty meetings or hold its own CIE-specific faculty meeting. The top areas to share with faculty include the approved bylaws and the proposed syllabus for a departmental pro-seminar involving faculty and students in both concentrations.

The second order of business was to clarify the roles of student representatives. The undergraduate representative is currently meeting with Stacey to develop a proposal for greater clarity. The graduate representative roles also need clarity in serving as a liaison between CIE and graduate students.

The third order of business was the discussion of the proposed syllabus created by the departmental task force for the pro-seminar. The committee provided feedback to the task force and discussed potential meeting dates for presentation to the faculty. The feedback emphasized the importance of professional development and offered suggestions for involving current students. The ideal start time for the pro-seminar would be Fall 2023, and following faculty feedback, the presentation to graduate students is requested.

Finally, the committee discussed a strategy for generating ideas from the "toolkit" resource shared by Jill. The toolkit is full of good ideas, and the CIE is considering ways to prioritize and assess the implementation of these ideas. Diana offered to create a table to differentiate the department's current efforts, low-hanging fruit, and longer-term goals.

The CIE is dedicated to addressing climate concerns and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the department. Stay tuned for updates on the CIE's progress towards that vision.

As always, feel free to reach out to the CIE with feedback or suggestions: [PSYCIE@etsu.edu](mailto:PSYCIE@etsu.edu)