

## Values Commitment Steering Team Minutes January 29, 2015

Team members in attendance were Bob Sitler, Michael Branton, Leila Roach, Colleen Price, and Joshua Rust.

### Speakers for Values Day

Leila Roach attended the Values Day subcommittee meeting to discuss possible speakers. The top three choices based on the initial meeting were Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (who will not be available), Lupita Nyohgo, and Wendy Spencer. It was pointed out that this is the first year the VCST has been commissioned to choose the speaker. Suggestions were made that we consider someone who will appeal to a wide audience and that an author would be a good choice. Leila Roach will reach out to a couple of the prospects simultaneously beginning with Edwidge Danticott and bell hooks. Leila will send an email re: prospective speakers to whoever is currently leading the department of gender studies.

### Holidays

Chaplain Fronk and Lindsey Graves reported on their reviews of Stetson's holiday policy versus other peer universities. One of them (Elon) uses a request form. Much of the discussion centered around the Good Friday holiday, as noted below:

- Continue the Good Friday holiday as is with no changes
- Rename it something other than Good Friday
- Discontinue the Good Friday holiday, but allow students to be excused from class to observe it, with prior notice to the professor. For staff, this becomes an HR question.
- Provide a request form to be filled out by the student
- The observance of religious holidays should not be permitted during finals
- Include religious holidays in syllabi as an educational tool
- Publicize religious holidays through Stetson announcements
- Post holidays on the university calendar
  - Have a template calendar and highlight holidays beforehand.
  - Lindsey Graves and Mike Fronk should have a role in calendar planning, which takes place during the summer.
- The holiday policy should be more available
- Lindsey will contact Lua Hancock and Jason Martin to discuss putting religious holidays on the university calendar

Next step for VCST: Lindsey will discuss with Betty Whiteman in HR, and Mike Fronk will talk to people who were here when the Good Friday policy was implemented, such as Betty Johnson and Jim Beasley, and both will report back to the committee. Then based on findings, the committee will make a recommendation for public comment and present to the president's cabinet for approval.

### Printing Resources

Wendy Libby gave Bob Huth the go-ahead to start the environmental task force, which will comprise 15 people. He is in conversations with Dr. Wendy Anderson, professor and department chair of environmental studies and science.

Employee Wellness

Colleen and Lua Hancock met with Lindsey Bishop regarding healthier choices in the CUB. The parent company has some restrictions, but these are being ironed out. It was brought to the committee's attention that the food choices presented in the CUB have substantially improved.

The next meeting will take place on February 12, 2015 at 10 a.m. in room 126 of the Lynn Business Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hamil  
Recording Secretary