

**From:** [Patricia Burks-Jelks](#)  
**To:** [grpFaculty](#); [grpStaff](#); [grpStudents](#)  
**Subject:** Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee: Meeting Summary  
**Date:** Monday, February 03, 2014 4:15:28 PM

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**Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee**  
***Meeting Summary***  
**Wednesday January 29, 2014**  
**9:30 a.m., Upper A Conference Room**

**Attendees:** Patricia Burks-Jelks (Chair; UTSI HRO/Equity & Diversity), Sabrina Hurlock (Co-Chair; SGA President), Dr. Ahmad Vakili (President, UTSI Faculty Assembly), Dr. Reza Abedi (Faculty), Dr. Anusonti-Inthra Phuriwat (Faculty), Jorge Damian Parra Martinez (Student), Stuart Steen (Student), Brenda Brown (Staff).

**Welcome/Opening Remarks**

Patricia welcomed everyone to the first meeting and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the committee.

**Overview of committee purpose:**

To assist with making recommendations to our UTSI Executive Director, Dr. Robert Moore, on ways to help improve diversity and inclusion at UTSI addressing **recruitment, retention, academic success, and professional development** with continued **collaboration** between faculty, staff, students, and administration.

**Briefing from October 2013 “UTK Day of Dialogue Symposium”**

Sabrina shared highlights from some of the symposium diversity and inclusion related sessions.

**Diversity Calendar / other activities and information**

Sabrina shared a calendar that indicates cultural and religious holidays. Discussion occurred around how we may acknowledge various other cultural holidays at UTSI. One point of interest is possibly acknowledging other cultures new year celebrations. Further discussions to occur.

**Work groups/Focus Areas from purpose statement: “How can we help improve diversity and inclusion in these focus areas?” \*\***

*\*\* (Committee members may choose to serve on more than one work group; updates will follow )*

**Recruitment: (Jorge and Dr. Abedi)**

Jorge provided a detailed description of some possible issues with the UTK/UTSI website in relation to student’s applying for admission to UTK/UTSI. Further discussion will occur between SGA and Dee Merriman and other administration if needed.

Consider exchange program with other universities as UTSI has done in the past.

Ahmad mentioned that a recruitment committee is already in existence in MABE (Sabrina

and Phuriwat work with committee already).

**Retention: (Stuart and Patricia)**

**Academic success: (Stuart and Patricia)**

**Professional Development: (Brenda Brown)**

Consider providing transportation for UTSI students to travel to UTK whenever Career Fares are held.

**Wrap up/closing remarks**

- Consider minutes from each meeting and posting them on the UTSI website (UTSI homepage, other locations to be determined).
- The role of this committee is advisory; effective recommendations (proper justification and rationale) will be submitted to Dr. Moore for consideration.
- Sabrina and I will have a follow up meeting to discuss details.
- Next meeting will be in about 1 month.

**NEXT MEETING:**

- ***March 5, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., Upper A conference room***