**University of North Alabama**

**Multicultural Advisory Committee**

Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 2:00 PM, via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Melanie Looser, Rachel Winston, Keli Brothers, Johnson Ogun, Jason McCall, Tammy Rhodes, Felecia Harris, Kimberly Minges, Marli Kate Powell (proxy for Chloe Byrd), Callie Murchison, Jada Winston, Shinika Byrd

Excused: Dr. Minette Ellis, Wesley (Chase) Wise

1) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Melanie Looser. Members were welcomed, and the purpose of the meeting was introduced.
2) Approval of Agenda
   a) Discussion: The agenda was presented to the committee for review. A minor note was made about a leftover item from a previous meeting, which will be removed from future agendas.
   b) Action: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rachel Winston and seconded by Keli Brothers and Johnson Ogun. The agenda was approved without opposition.
3) Approval of Minutes from December
   a) Discussion: The December minutes were reviewed. It was noted that the document was incomplete due to a saving error. Attendance was reviewed and corrected, including adding Jason McCall. The committee agreed that a corrected version of the minutes would be redistributed for full review.
   b) Action: Approval of the December minutes was postponed. Updated minutes will be sent via email and approved through e-business.

Old Business

1) Nomination for Vice Chair
   a) Discussion: The committee revisited the previous nomination of Tammy Rhodes for Vice Chair. She has agreed to serve in this role.
   b) Action: No further action needed.
2) Committee Overview & Updates
   a) Discussion: Due to a family emergency, Dr. Minnette Ellis was unable to attend. The chair shared her recommendations, noting recent changes in Alabama state law and university restructuring. The committee was asked to review its charge, structure, and responsibilities to ensure alignment with current legal and institutional expectations.
   b) Action: The committee will discuss this further at the appropriate time, as an additional review of the charge was added to the agenda as new business.

New Business

1) Major DeWayne Williams Memorial Scholarship

a) Discussion: In the past, this scholarship was awarded through the MAC as part of the committee charge. In light of recent changes, the committee discussed a recommendation to move the scholarship into the university's standard scholarship process. Members clarified that this would not remove the scholarship or alter donor intent but would align it with existing university procedures and ensure consistency and fairness.
b) Action: A motion was made by Rachel Winston and seconded by Kimberly Minges and Jason McCall to move the scholarship to the university's process of awarding scholarships. The motion passed unanimously with no opposition or abstentions.

2) President's Diversity Award / UNA Unity Award
   a) Discussion: The committee reviewed proposed updates to the President's Diversity Award, including renaming it the UNA Unity Award and revising the description. The new award description is as follows:

      *The UNA Unity Award: These awards honor individuals (e.g., faculty, staff, and students) and organizations that expand the reach of the University by providing an environment that is welcoming to all and that fosters a campus culture of respect. Priority will be given to those whose activities help UNA meet its strategic mission of providing "access for students from different backgrounds and a strong canvassing of the region and beyond."*

      Further committee discussion included maintaining the original spirit of the award, improving language clarity, addressing concerns about wording such as 'priority' and 'activities,' and ensuring alignment with the university's strategic plan. The committee was tasked with identifying an alternate pathway for nominations and the subsequent awarding of this honor to ensure a fair and streamlined process.
   b) Action: Due to a lack of information about the origination of the award and questions about verbiage, the item was tabled by consensus of the committee. M. Looser will gather additional information and follow up via e-business for a formal recommendation and vote.
3) Review of Committee Charge
   a) Discussion: The committee discussed its purpose moving forward, particularly if responsibility for the scholarship and award is reassigned. Members considered whether to revise the committee's charge or recommend dissolution. The committee questioned whether SGEC had further tasks for the committee on behalf of the university that would fall under the committee's charge.
   b) Action: M. Looser will follow up with SGEC about their recommendations and any outstanding work that may need to be accomplished. A motion to table further discussion was made by Tammy Rhodes and seconded by Felecia Harris. The motion passed. Follow-up will occur via email and e-business.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Johnson Ogun and seconded by Rachel Winston. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Melanie B. Looser, DNP, ACNP-BC

Multicultural Advisory Committee, Chair

2025-2026