Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, April 13, 2021
Online Zoom Meeting

Present:
Best, Douglas
Clemmons, Lee
Coppinger, Whitney
Jackson, Donald
Taylor, Susan
Carter, Marsha
Hill, Olivia
Conwell, Patrick
Davis, Jessamyn
Pring, Michael
Bennett, Jennifer
Bishop, Faith
Dawson, Toni Renee
Ingram, Donna
Lawrence Givens, Tiffany
Hansbrough, Sean
Hollifield, Michael
LeBlanc, Jennifer
Loudon, Jeff
Lowe, Deni
Robinson, Antonio
Rutledge, Scott
Wolff, Jeannette
Bordenstein, Sarah
Brown, Jacquelyn
Cherry, Sandy
Pickert, Donald
Smith, LaDonna

Johnston, Caroline
Kelley, Emily
Kiolbas, Mary
Linski, Jamie
Porter, Beth
Baquera, Felisha
McKeever-Burgett, Adam
Nashabi, Maya
Wang, Rong "Joanne"
Cooley, Emma
Dixon, Michele
Johnson, Denise
Majewski, Ashley
Ripley, Kate
Walker, Susan
Butner, Sean
Harding, Amanda
Mullen, Becky
Steffanick, Adam
Weisbrodt, Cathy
Putnam, Sara
Noote, Allie
Jones, Haley
Smith, Amy
Woodruff, Karen
Osinski, Keegan
Fuchs Hritz, Kathleen
Johnson, Faye (Linda)
Yockey, Heather

Bess, Angela
Gracey, Lisa
Higgins, Ed
Maddox, Lynn
Berry, Courtney
Bourgoin, Jeremy
Farst, Paige
Jones, Michael
Templeton, Alison
Cole, Victoria
Hastings, Lynn
Mundy, Meaghan
Rall, Kathleen
Sims, Beth
Not Present:
Barclay, Samantha
Cedzich, Michele
Clair Brigman, Clair
Halman, Michelle
Crowhurst, Stace
Armstrong, Anjelica
Bennett, Garrett
Engstrom, Steven
Fox, Anita
Anuj Rastogi, Anuj
Turner, Kimberly
Martin, Robert
Artus, Meagan
Carroll, Chantry
Perry, Will
Williams, Tara
Luffman, Josh
Stiles, David
Manlove, Sharon
Graham, Kashif
Griffin, Shore
Kamtarin, Shahpar
Anderson, Matthew
Charley, Myles
Sanders, Sara
Watkins, Kateleen
Fields, Craig
Jensen, Lena
Mullane, Courtney
King, Amanda
Gibson, Madison
Nelson, Roberta (Rob)

Guest:
Bourgoin, Jeremy
Brooks, Bari
Moore, Teea
Nairon, Laura
Sierra, Bryn
Smith, Janet
WELCOME
Caroline Johnson, President, called meeting to order at 8:30am
• Welcome

NEW and OLD BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS
• Minutes – March
  o Approval delayed
• Karen Dolan Spirit Award
  o Submissions are open through April 23rd
• Employee Hardship Fund – Kroger Card
  o These funds go directly to support the Faculty and Staff Hardship Fund for those employees experience temporary hardships.
  o More information can be found here for both Kroger Community Rewards and the Faculty and staff Hardship Fund, https://www.vumc.org/health-wellness/news-resource-articles/faculty-and-staff-hardship-fund
• Executive Committee Position Speeches
  o Secretary – open need candidates
  o Treasurer – 3 candidates
  o VP/President Elect – Amanda Harding
• Share Your Story
  o One year later: Faces of Vandy Response to COVID
• ByLaw Amendment
  o Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee changed to standing committee
  o Accepted and approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Communications Committee, Jeff Louden and Ashley Majewshi Co-Chairs
• Next meeting - Friday at 10 a.m.
• Focusing on website FAQ’s
• Social Media Submission form
• Communications Co-Chair needed for next year

Events Committee, Amanda King and Jennifer Bennett Co-Chairs
• Next Meeting – 4/27 1pm
• Virtual Happy Hour – following Spring Staff Assembly
  o May 20th
• Virtual Coffee Break
  o Every Other Wednesday 10AM
  o Coffee Break registration https://www.vanderbilt.edu/usac/events/events.php

Membership Committee, Cathy Weisbrodt and Lynn Hastings Co-Chairs
• April Birthdays
• Meet a USAC Member
• Election Update
  o All Odd Groups
April 19: Elections Go Live
• Meet at USAC Member: Amanda Harding, Assistant Director, Vanderbilt Data Science Institute

Rules and Administration, Sean Butner and David Stiles Co-Chairs

Staff Life, Amanda Harding and Jamie Linski, Co-Chairs
• Next Meeting: Wed, April 21st at 1pm
  o Send email if interested in attending meeting
• Learning and Engagement
  o https://hr.vanderbilt.edu/ele/workshopinfo.php

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) – Denise Johnson & Antonio Robinson Co-Chairs
• Next Meeting: April 22, 2021 - 9a.m. zoom
• Heritage Calendar Poster
  o April – Autistic Pride Month

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Billy Teets, Director, Dyer Observatory and Resident Astronomer
• Located in Brentwood, TN
• Division of Gov & Community Relations
• Historic VU facility dedicated to inspiring students and the public in science through astronomy and space exploration
• Founded in 1953
• VU first observatory was where Rand Hall now stands – 1875
• History of Astronomy at VU - Landon Garland
  o 1st Chancellor of VU
  o 1st Chair of Physics and Astronomy Dept
• Dr Edward Emerson Barnard
  o Discovered Barnard’s Loop with advanced photography
  o Barnard’s Star – moves across sky at fastest rate
  o Discovered 5th moon of Jupiter
  o Barnard’s Galaxy – 1884
• Named after one of Main Donor – Founders
  o Arthur J. Dyer
• Seyfert Telescope – largest telescope at Dyer
• Star Chamber
  o Complete in 2006 by Chris Drury
  o Walk-in camera obscura
• Events
  o Open Houses with telescopes open for viewing
  o Telescope Nights – 2nd Friday of month
    • Several telescopes open
o Presentation studio for virtual events
  ▪ Virtual telescope nights over zoom
  ▪ Presenters from all over
o Dyer.vanderbilt.edu for events
o Meet the Astronomer Lectures
o Summer Camps 5th through 8th Graders
o Concerts
o Corporate Retreats

• Wildlife
  o Owls, wild turkeys, deer, etc.
• Social Media - @dyerobservers

Krista Vaught, Employee Learning & Engagement
• Upcoming learning experiences at http://vanderbi.lt/ele-workshops
• Podcast - PodTalks
• Thought Leader Series – expert and opinion leaders

CLOSING REMARKS
Tiffany Givins, President
• Next Meeting:
  o Tuesday, May 11, 2021
  o Time: 8:30 am
  o Location: Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.

Our Vision: Through communication, consultation, and service, the Council will promote a strong partnership among the staff, faculty, students, and administration of Vanderbilt University.