

UConn Senate DEIJA Committee

September 29, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | MS Teams

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes
 - [Minutes of August 25, 2025 DEIJA Meeting](#) : the minutes were approved with one abstention
2. ODI Updates, Jeffrey Hines: Jeff Hines shared that an email will be forthcoming that ODI and OIE will be merging, under a new office “the Office for Inclusion & Civil Rights,” adding that this project has been underway for more than a year at this point. He added that in a recent meeting with Vice Provost Starke, they confirmed that the McNair Scholars Program and TRIO programs are fully funded this year. The floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued.
3. Report out from SEC meeting: Jeff Hines shared an update from the most recent SEC w/ Leadership meeting (9/12/25), adding updates on federal research funding and the pausing of the ABR course. Marie Coppola added that the SEC also discussed scooter and pedestrian safety at their most recent SEC w/ Chairs meeting and informed the committee that the current policy only limits scooter use to the sidewalks and that the UConn police office say they cannot respond to enforcement of policy, only law. They added that the university is in conversations with a new scooter vendor that would have speed limits and other safety protocols.
4. Plans for proposed “listening tour” – what is the best way to engage with them?: Marie Coppola introduced the topic and discussion ensued. The committee expressed some concerns about the scope of this project and identifying stakeholders, and Marie Coppola stated that they will regroup with co-chair Micah Heumann to review past reports to this committee to help prioritize topics of discussion.
 - <https://diversity.uconn.edu/uconn-employee-affinity-groups/>
 - Student-oriented cultural and affinity groups (Angelo)
 - Two main options, or a combination:
 1. Invite their representatives to come to one of our committee meetings (there are a LOT of them, this will be challenging)
 2. Have +committee representatives connect with groups and report back (more efficient), share meeting schedule with DEIJA team so that they can join, but not required. Will also have questions ready to provide affinity group leaders

To close, committee members were reminded of upcoming presenters and encouraged to review the Strategic Plan KPIs in advance of next month’s meeting. ([Strategic Planning Website](#), and [DEIJA Annual Report](#))

Attending:

- ***Micah Heumann, Co-Chair, EP/Honors**
- ***Marie Coppola, Co-Chair, CLAS**
- *Mary Ann Amalaradjou, CAHNR
- *Martha Cutter, CLAS, English
- *Beth Ginsberg, CLAS (Stamford Campus)
- *Eleanor Ouimet, CLAS (*absent*)
- *Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, CLAS
- *Timothy Vadas, College of Engineering
- *Yaowu Yuan, CLAS (*absent*)
- *Cindy Zhang, CLAS
- Kimberly Curry, The Graduate School
- Vanessa Heigel, Graduate Student
- Greg Bouquot, Registrar's Office
- Jeffrey Hines, Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ex-officio member)
- Angelo Montes Diaz, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- Audrey Silva, Center for Students with Disabilities

*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

Upcoming Guests:

10/27/25 Margaret Feeney re Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that this committee shared last year in response to the strategic plan

11/17/25 Lakeesha Brown re new process for exit interviews