

**CLARION
UNIVERSITY**

**A Report on the Presidential Commissions
2015-2016**

For
President Karen Whitney

Prepared by:
The Office of Social Equity
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2015-2016 Presidential Commissions Co-Chairs:

Presidential Commission on Disabilities:

Co-Chair Lynne Fleisher: lfleisher@clarion.edu

Co-Chair James Maccaferri: jmaccaferri@clarion.edu

Members: Erin Lewis, Amy Love, Debbie Ciesielka, Diana Brush, Christina Hearst, John Massa, Stephen Gendler, Kathleen O'Donnell, MaryPat McCarthy, Young-Gyoung Kim, Juanice Vega, Jennifer May, Lorie Taylor, Chad Smith, Eric Martin, Jason Strohm, Nate Mathewson

Presidential Commission on Human Relations

Co-Chair Jocelynn Smrekar: jsmrekar@clarion.edu

Co-Chair Marilyn Howe: mhowe@clarion.edu

Members: Brent Berquist, Emily Aubele

Presidential Commission on Sexual Harassment

Co-Chair Matthew Shaffer: mshaffer@clarion.edu

Co-Chair TBD

Members: Ron Radaker, Jim McGee, Marlene Kennedy, Jerry Belloit

Presidential Commission on Status of Women

Co-Chair Kathleen McIntyre: kmcintyre@clarion.edu

Co-Chair Laurie Pierce: lpierce@clarion.edu

Members: Jamie Phillips, Laurie Bladen, Young-Gyoung Kim, YooJin Ha, Amy Love, Tina Horner, Maria Jessica Crespo, Janet Knepper, Erin Schuetz

Presidential Commission on LGBT Concerns

Dana Bearer: dbearer@clarion.edu

Ronald Radaker: rradaker@clarion.edu

Members: Robert Levy, Mark Lepore, Ellen Foster, Todd Spaulding, Shawn Hoke, Scott Courtney, Brett Berquist, Erin Schuetz, Elisabeth Sauvage-Callaghan, William Naugle, Kade Ellinger, Morgan Woodin, Emily Gammon, Maggie Ditmore

Clarion University launched the *Strategic Equity Diversity Plan 2013-2018* (www.clarion.edu/strategicdiversityplan and www.clarion.edu/strategicdiversitygoals) and tasked each commission with identifying goals within the plan that they could participate in and help bring to fruition. Each commission reported on specific goals throughout the year. The office of social equity worked to coordinate the joint meetings, work within budget parameters and, when feasible, co-sponsored events and speakers.

Identified Goals by Commission:

Presidential Commission on Sexual Harassment (Goals 1.3, 1.4 and 2.3)

- Continue to update and promote the brochure used by survivors of sexual violence.
- Partner with other Commissions and groups such as Athletics, Greek Life, and Wellness Programs on programming focused on harassment and sexual violence.
- Work with Social Equity, when appropriate, to aid in the development and approval of the updated sexual harassment/sexual violence policy.

The Commission updated the brochure “Have You or Someone You Care about Survived an Incident of Sexual Violence” and co-sponsored “It’s on Us, PA.” Campaign. The Commission would like to expand and broaden focus in the coming academic year as the much of their focus has been absorbed by other Commissions.

Presidential Commission on LGBT Concerns (Goals 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.3)

- Safe Zone Trainings
- Provide resources for Public Schools on how to have conversations on tough issues
- Support ALLIES in the Survey for gender neutral restrooms
- Co-Chairs serve on the Gender Neutral Bathroom Committee and Preferred First Names Policy and Procedures Committee
- Support or co-sponsor Visiting Writers/Spoken Arts Series

The Commission co-sponsored The Spoken Art Reading Series poet and scholar Robin Becker, supported ALLIES in the survey concerning all inclusive restrooms, the co-chairs participated in committees for establishing all inclusive restrooms on campus and the writing of the *Preferred First Names Policy and Procedures*, and provided a Safe Zone Training on April 29, 2016. A full report from the Commission on LGBT Concerns is available from the Office of Social Equity upon request.

Presidential Commission on the Status of Women (Goal 1.2)

- Create Title IX fact sheet to complement the online training.
- Create and distribute newsletter

The Commission successfully co-sponsored two important films: *The Quiet Inquisition* and *The Hunting Ground*, distributed the first Newsletter, co-sponsored a student to attend the PASSHE

Women's Consortium and co-sponsored a student to attend the NEW Women's Leadership Program at Chatham University.

Presidential Commission on Human Relations

- Partner with Social Equity for sponsor Equity Week Roundtable Event
- Work to rebuild Commission for the upcoming academic year

The Commission co-sponsored the roundtable event, "Empowerment through Knowledge: Insight against a University Shooter." Unfortunately, the Commission struggled to find membership and the decision was made to place the Commission into moratorium.

Presidential Commission on Disabilities (1.1 and 2.3)

- Establish an email or reporting form for tips on disability related issues
- Sponsor speaker on Food Allergies

The Commission successfully sponsored a speaker Gina Clowes from Food Allergies Research and Education (FARE), conducted two safety walks, established a form to report concerns related to Safety, Lighting or Disability Accessibility Issues (<http://www.clarion.edu/student-life/campus-safety/administrative-forms/safety-referral-form.html>), revised the mission statement, and the co-chairs participated in the committee for establishing all inclusive restrooms.

Additional Sponsorship

In addition to each Commission's own accomplishments they also co-sponsored events on campus and assisted with policy updates. Spring 2016 the Commission reviewed and provide feedback for the update of the *Non-Discrimination Policy and Procedures* and for the creation of the *Preferred First Names Policy and Procedures*. They co-sponsored the showing of *Life is Beautiful* as part of Clarion's Holocaust Remembrance Week. They also co-sponsored the MLK, JR Community Breakfast. The Commission also created and administered a Campus Survey, based on recommendations from Dr. James Maccaferri, Commission on Disabilities.