

Diversity Catalyst Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 27, 2023, 4:00 PM ET

In attendance: Brian Raison (Chair), Anna Katharine Mansfield, David Monks, Gene Kelly, Jeanette Thurston, Nina Lyon Bennett, David Leibovitz

Welcome and Meeting Administration – Brian Raison

- One item was added under “other business” regarding the agInnovation Incoming Chair’s Priorities and Initiatives.
 - **The Agenda with modification was approved by acclamation.**
- Approval of the [June 22, 2023 DCC call minutes](#)
 - **The minutes were approved by acclamation.**

Review of nominations for the National Experiment Station Section Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award

- The group discussed and considered each of the six nominees:
 - Individual award:
 - Theresa Cooper, Iowa State University
 - Jacquelyn Moseley, University of Arkansas
 - Clare Cannon, University of California, Davis
 - Jennifer Falbe, University of California, Davis
 - Group award:
 - Cloquet Forestry Center (Lane Johnson), University of Minnesota
 - Quentin Tyler and Linda Nubani, Michigan State University
- **The DCC unanimously elected to grant two awards. Both awards will be presented at the 2023 agInnovation Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. Time will be set aside for each award winner to make a presentation to the full meeting body. Award winners were:**
 - **Individual award: Jacquelyn Moseley, University of Arkansas**
 - **Group award: Cloquet Forestry Center (Lane Johnson), University of Minnesota**
- **Remaining nominees will be offered the opportunity to revise and roll over into the 2024 pool.**
- The DCC discussed the possibility of creating a third award category in 2024 for “Innovation.” This was influenced by one of the nominations which stood out as particularly strong in that area.

agInnovation Incoming Chair’s Priorities and Initiatives – Jeanette Thurston

- The incoming agInnovation Chair is George Smith, Michigan State University. One of George’s priorities and initiatives as chair is to “Fully integrate diversity equity and inclusion as a central component of all agInnovation activities and programs.”
- North Central Regional Association colleagues (two) expressed that “this could be a difficult statement for some people to talk about, given what’s going on in the country.”
- Can the DCC provide guidance on “How best to articulate this priority/recommendation”?
- DCC can endorse the Chair’s initiative and help agInnovation stand by the statement as worded.
- One way of depoliticizing diversity, equity, and inclusion is to use the framing of Accessibility.
- Arkansas is facing political pressure with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion. A Title IX committee says certain activities on campus conducted as recently as spring 2023 must not continue in the fall.
 - Can’t ask about preferred pronouns in Arkansas.
 - Instructors must use names as listed on rosters instead of asking preferred names.

- Training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion cannot be mandated, but it can be offered as an option.
- The DCC's endorsement is our way of taking a stand and allowing George Smith to take a stand. If this is what we believe, if this is what our organization stands by, then this is what we need to support.
 - Endorsement of George's priorities should not impact our relationship with our Directors at either a regional or national level.
- **The DCC endorses George's statement and intends to discuss an action plan for demonstrating its endorsement.**
 - Do we need anything written?
 - Is endorsement just a statement from the DCC to be recorded upon acceptance of the Chair's Priorities and Initiatives?
 - Is endorsement additional language of support to be included in the motion of approval for George's Priorities and initiatives?

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm Eastern time.