

## August 2020 DEI Working Group Meeting Summary

Greetings from the School of Applied Sciences Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Working Group.

For a full list of committee members, please visit the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Applied Sciences (<https://sas.olemiss.edu/dei/>) and click on the DEI working group link.

The DEI in SAS working group's first 2020-2021 meeting was held on 8/27/20 and we wanted to share with our colleagues some key areas that were addressed.

- The **UM Climate Study** results were presented on September 22, 2020. Hopefully, many of our faculty, staff and students were able to attend the presentation. If you were unable to attend, here is the link to the executive summary, presentation, and the full report: <https://yourvoice.olemiss.edu/>
- The UM Diversity Liaisons (<https://dce.olemiss.edu/diversity-liaisons/>) had their first Meeting with Dr. Mead in her capacity as Interim Vice-Chancellor of Diversity and Community Engagement. Dr. Mead's office is working to finalize a strategic plan for DEI for the institution. Diversity liaisons are charged with assisting their units in developing a unit-level Action Plan to further the larger institutional plan.
- There was a discussion of highlighting an antiracist focus within DEI in SAS in response to current events in our country, including possible actions to support the focus such as drafting an anti-racist statement to include on the DEI in SAS webpage.

Within the DEI in SAS working group there are several sub-committees.

- Communications: During the meeting, the communications subcommittee discussed the potential use of social media, considering what the pros and cons would be. Another topic that was addressed was to get access to the **Engaged! newsletter**, which would be beneficial to all.

*To access Engaged! newsletter* - Go to the Diversity and Inclusion website and subscribe for information and events. Here is the link for those of you wanting to subscribe:

<https://olemiss.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=5ca7053ed6781762c789b7966&id=93cb82e851>

- Assessment: Finally, the assessment sub-committee will begin compiling the results of the data collected from the SAS survey on diversity, equity and inclusion to assist in identifying both strengths and areas for improvement for DEI in SAS.

The second DEI in SAS working group meeting is scheduled for 9/24.