

Council members: Jeanne Arnold, Jaime Christie, Gina Guerrieri (chair), Elizabeth Harkins, Ana Cristina Siqueira, Naa-Solo Tettey, Satasha Williams

This past year I became the Chair of the Council, and during our meetings we primarily discussed our priority directive:

“Work with Council for Equity and Justice (CEJ) to develop standardized criteria for the recognition of affinity-based caucuses.”

To this end, we decided to write two different proposals for the recognition of affinity-based caucuses on campus. We decided that one proposal should be more formal, with more structure required of the affinity caucus, while the other proposal would be less formal, offering a quicker and easier path to establishing an affinity caucus.

Satasha Williams, Jessica Ebegbulem (from CE&J) and Elizabeth Harkins volunteered to write a more formal, structured model draft.

Myranda Barreau (from CE&J) and Gina Guerrieri volunteered to write the less formal model draft.

I was invited to be a member of the Council for Equity and Justice (CE&J) this year, and I joined its Affinity Group subcommittee, which was tasked with working with the Senate Diversity Council to create criteria for recognizing affinity-based caucuses.

Because there was so much overlap between the Senate Diversity Council and the Affinity Group subcommittee of the CE&J, the Senate council only met twice (February 7 and February 28). I met several times with the subcommittee and the CE&J, as well as with Myranda Barreau, my co-writer of the less formal proposal.

During the many meetings, several drafts and revisions of drafts of both models were presented by Gina and Satasha. In late April a final draft of both the formal and less formal proposal were approved, and Jeanne Arnold passed these along to the President. We are currently awaiting comments from the President and his Cabinet before we present the models to the Senate at large.

Our goal for next AY 25-26 is to ask the Senate to vote on an approved proposal so we can launch the model and affinity caucuses can be created.

*Submitted by Gina Guerrieri*