July Update from the President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion

The President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion met on July 25 for their first meeting of 2014-2015. President Robert Davies participated in a portion of the meeting to express his appreciation for the work performed by the Commission and to charge the Commission with continued leadership responsibilities for Murray State’s overall diversity efforts. He stressed the importance of Murray State having a culture that supports exploration and inclusion of all.

The Commission heard a progress report from Dr. Peggy Pittman-Munke on the analysis of the Campus Climate Survey data. The Commission expects to present the results of the 2014 Campus Climate Survey to President Davies in the next few months.

As Murray State’s 2011-2015 Diversity Plan has only this academic year left, a process has begun to develop the next iteration. Commission Vice Chair Jody Cofer Randall indicated the Commission will again lead this effort and outlined the process that will be followed. The next iteration of the Diversity Plan must be developed during the fall semester to comply with deadlines set by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Committee on Equal Opportunities. More information about this process will be made available to the University community in weeks ahead and ample opportunities will be made for input.

During the meeting, the Commission welcomed five new members. They are: Charley Allen, University Communications; Alicia Carthell, English and Philosophy; Mary-Elaine Horn, Hopkinsville Regional Campus; Roslyn White, Recruitment; and Dr. Guangming Zou.

The Commission’s next meeting is August 22. At that meeting, the Commission will discuss the 2014-2015 diversity priorities for Academic Affairs with Provost Jay Morgan and hear an update on the implementation of Human Resource’s diversity training program from Courtney Hixon, Manager of Employee Relations and Trainings. Any questions regarding the Commission may be directed to Chair Don E. Robertson at drobertson@murraystate.edu.