Purpose of Submittal:

President Randhawa will provide an overview of initiatives to advance Western’s commitments with respect to Accessibility, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion during the 2020 – 2021 academic year.

Background:

On Juneteenth 2020, the Black Student Organization (BSO) delivered a set of demands to the Associated Students executive board and the administration. At the time, we acknowledged that we can and must do more to create lasting institutional changes needed to achieve more equitable outcomes in education and beyond for our BIPOC students. We also acknowledged that we must do more to create supportive and empowering environments for our BIPOC faculty and staff.

Since then, Western has undertaken specific action on about 15 items during the 2020-21 academic year, many of them part of the BSO demands and a few additional items discussed with the BSO and the AS leadership, including the establishment of a university-level Office of Equity to be led by a Cabinet-level Executive Director/Chief Diversity Officer. More detail about these and other initiatives is available on Western’s ADEI website.