

HBCU Committee Teleconference:

29 June, 2017 3:00 pm EDT

Dr. George reported that Fr. Martini is detained in court and asked her to chair the committee. She asked Canon Callaway to take minutes.

Present: George, Callaway, Evenbeck, Cunningham, Lowe, Barnes, Holley, and Lowery. Fr. Martini joined the call at the end.

Dr. Lowe opened the meeting with a prayer.

Dr. George reported on the Executive Council meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Working with Joint Standing Committee on Advocacy and Networking as well as the Mission Committee, Resolution AN 028 secured the transition of the Task Force into a sustainable Committee, through the next Triennium. The Committee now needs to develop guidelines for the composition of membership along with a charter of its purpose. Further, we will need to prepare a report to Executive Council accomplishments and needs. Anita noted that a lot of people were constructively involved who deserve credit. Gene Lowe observed that the Committee appreciates this recognition by EC of our work with these colleges. Anita feels that the church is putting some priority on our work with St. Augustine's University and Voorhees College. Tara noted that this raises the profiles of these two schools and asks people to pay attention to their needs.

A subcommittee (including Anita, Gene and Jamie) will talk about ways to help to have high visibility at General Convention, so the entire church can become more aware. Tara reported that she is working on banners for funding needs for the convention and wants to be able to include Voorhees and St. Augustine's among them.

Lang Lowery: Launched his Voorhees assignment about eight months after St. Augustine's. Now they have refined the priorities to three:

1. Fund Development: Voorhees has a critical need to improve Fund Development. He introduced the recruiter George Conway to Dr. Evans, launching a search for a new director, V.P., for Institutional Development. They are developing strategy for the program itself, utilizing input from Tara, with the hope of preparing for a capital campaign.
2. Enrollment: Voorhees has a smaller student body that is not sustainable. Dr. Evans has brought in Royall & Company to reach out to applicants, leading to a far larger pool, on a contract basis. It still remains to be seen

- what the enrollment yield is. (Conway is also looking for a new Director of Admissions.)
3. Deferred maintenance: unlike St. Augustine's the deferred maintenance is under \$5million and could be less. Voorhees has a superior director of buildings and grounds, Mr. Patterson, an ex-military man. They have extraordinary care to keep things clean, neat and professional. Dr. Evans moved promptly to execute on the plan that Lang brought them. Lang is encouraged by their grappling with the problems they face. Tara concurs with Lang about the needs of fund raising and admissions.

St. Augustine's is a different story: an excellent location, they have a recognized name and are well known and regarded in Raleigh. The worries have included back office issues that have not had adequate business systems, which was Lang's initial work. They are rushing to get these systems up by the October 11th SACS session. It is important to get a good audit, and be ready with a surplus for 2016-2017. The other issue is loan covenants that need waivers. This is crucial along with a surplus reflected in the audit.

Lang is starting weekly meetings in preparing for the SACS review. Dr. Robert Franklin, former president of Morehouse College led the recent board retreat. They brought in two people from Washington, D.C. to report on heightened student aid issues. Lang's team has found about \$16 million in deferred maintenance of the dorms. It may be cheaper to replace some of the larger ones than brining them up to speed. Lang is hoping to find a way to find opportunities for co-development.

Joel made a visit to Dr. Ward in Raleigh this week, and spoke with Dr. Barry Goldstein, the SACS liaison with St. Augustine's, before he went. Dr. Goldstein was pleased with the openness of the people at St. Augustine's. They see Dr. Ward as straightforward, not trying to hide anything. In December SACS could remove accreditation, continue probation for an additional year, or remove probation.

The covenant is a provision in a \$22 million loan made to Saint Augustine's a few years ago from Federal sources. Although all payments are being made as specified, prescribed reserves have proved to be unworkable. A formal waiver is being sought for inclusion in the September SACS report.

The deferred maintenance requires both a plan and purpose. The senior staff is mostly new, quite able and experienced. They believe they will have a surplus this year; that admissions is progressing and that retention is looking good. Joel is generally positive on their situation. Dr. Ward is working quite hard, and that his direct reports are capable. Joel enjoyed the visit and they treated him royally.

Joel noted that the dates in the fall are tightly interlocked: St. Augustine's report goes through September 8th; The SACS visiting committee comes from October 8-11th; the audit will be completed around then. The report will need to include the census from the fall semester, which will reflect admissions and retention. Further, will be the waiver from the note, which Lang emphasized only needs to be a temporary waiver. Jamie asked if it were possible we could find connections with the lender, and it was agreed that obtaining the waiver is a top priority.

Tara has been on the road for the last couple of months. Has a conference call with Dr. Evans on July 10th. Dr. Ward is on a presidential tour talking about the 150th anniversary Rick Warren and Andy Givens from Christ Church are leading a Legacy Committee that raised \$75,000 at a recent dinner. On May 19th St. Augustine's held their *Stone of Hope Gala* that raised \$375,000. Nearby bishops are engaging how they can help build support.

With September looming as such a critical juncture, Gene proposed that the committee check-in in August. The next meeting of the Committee is Wednesday August 23rd at 1:00 pm EDT.

Jamie Callaway