

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

November 20, 2023

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Canon Martini Shaw, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Mr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Sam Rodman, and Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley.

Absent members: Ms. Martha Alexander, Dick Burnett.

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS: Canon Ron Byrd and Mrs. Nancy Caparulo.

Absent Staff/Consultant: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Mr. T.J. Houlihan, and Fr. Lang Lowery.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM EST and Bishop Sam offered a prayer.

With a quorum was present, Cn. Callaway moved and Dr. Lowe seconded to approve the minutes from the September meeting. A quick discussion followed about accessing previous minutes for the committee. Guidance will be sought from the GCO.

A very positive debrief of the trip to St. Augustine's was done.

St. Augustine's Report

Bishop Sam gave his report on SAU, emphasizing the confidential nature of recent board activities. He observed that the historic importance of this school for TEC is hard to estimate. He expressed his concern that, if there is no solution to the current issues, it will wind up like St. Paul's. He asked that pastoral support be given to Dr. McPhail.

Voorhees Report

Bishop Ruth was not able to attend the recent Voorhees board meeting but described a nice engagement with Voorhees at the SC diocesan convention, where the choir performed. President Hopkins was well received and is appreciated in the diocese. Enrollment is 519, including online (on-campus 299). The goal for enrollment is 800 by 2027. Retention is 63%. All 7 graduates are placed as lay teachers. The school has received a number of grants and a program to relieve student debt is being considered. Cn. Callaway expressed concern about the 299 on-campus not being sufficient to build a healthy campus community.

Comments

Canon Byrd talked about his conversations with Chaplain Hershey at SAU. She had to cancel the student retreat as the school would not appropriate the \$5400 needed for the bus to take students to Kanuga. They realized a significant financial loss because of the cancellation. Chaplain Hershey's installation day is still unclear. The SAU board is planning to go ahead with their retreat in December.

Blue Book Report

The Blue Book draft was discussed. Dr. Lowe and Canon Callaway have worked on the report which summarizes the committee's work over the past two years. The report asks for a "substantial increase" in funding in the 2025-2027 budget with \$500K per institution per year the aim. The report is due on December 1 and input to Dr. Lowe was invited so additions to the report can be made.

Dr. Lowe described his experience with the Joint Budget Committee listening on November 9. He was surprised the format did not include opportunity for questions and that there were a number of people speaking on the same topic. Cn. Shaw Martini will investigate the process so that a strategy can be developed for the next listening session. There are EC members who will speak for the HBCUs at the closed session November 20. Cn. Hagans will present on the 12th. It was noted that 83-84% students at both schools are eligible for Pell grants.

Next meeting dates: December 11th at 10:00 and January 24th at 9:00 AM.

Dr. Lowe will complete the BB report, specifying the \$500K budget request.
Bishop Ruth and Mr. Evenbeck moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the Committee