

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

August 7, 2024

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Ms. Martha Alexander, Fr. Dick Burnett, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Mr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George, and Bishop Sam Rodman.

Absent committee members: Canon Martini Shaw, Canon Michele Hagans and Dr. Eugene Lowe.

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Ms. Nancy Caparulo, and Fr. Lang Lowery.

Absent staff and consultants: Canon Ron Byrd and Ms. Julia Alling.

In Cn. Shaw's absence Bishop Ruth called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 9:01 AM EDT. Bishop Sam offered a prayer.

The July 10 Minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

St. Augustine's Update

Bp. Sam discussed developments at the college and the change in the status of the accreditation that was reported inaccurately. The Arbitrator decided that the appeal should have been granted owing to procedural problems and the school now has until the end of 2024 to submit information for additional arbitration. Accreditation is in place through 2024 but time lacking to get the audits done. There was a board meeting on July 23. School staff were not in the office regularly during the latter half of fiscal 2024. There is a plan to receive students later this month (hope for 300) but they still have not made a payroll and having sufficient faculty in place is unclear. The loan from Gothic has not moved forward.

The campus needs attention in order to receive students. Discussion looked at the nature of a possible incoming student population and financial matters. The accounting firm that did the 2021 audit was changed to Banks, Finley, White and Co. for about half the cost.

Chaplain Hershey is serving at Good Shepherd in Raleigh part time and is one-quarter time at SAU. The diocese is working with her on other possible employment opportunities. Deacon Sally has retired as of June. Dr. Burgess is holding his own in a very difficult environment.

Voorhees Update

Bp. Ruth reported a two-day board meeting in July had a development focus. The United Negro College Fund reps were present to consult in that area. A look was taken at possible dates for a face-to-face meeting as there are now conflicts with schedules. Bp. Ruth will talk with the President about alternate dates and send a Doodle poll for 2025 if the end of October doesn't work.

Consultant Reports

Fr. Lowery's report was done in executive session, which had been moved, seconded and approved.

Mr. Barnes reported after the executive session: \$139K raised as of July for the Absalom Jones Fund compared with \$171K in all of 2023.

The next meeting was set for September 12 at 10:00 AM and the meeting was adjourned 9:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee