

**HBCU Committee Meeting**  
**February 23, 2018**  
**8:00am CST-9:00am EST**  
**Zoom/Call-in**

Attending:

Scott Evenbeck  
Michele Hagan  
Joel Cunningham  
Gene Lowe  
Jamie Callahan  
Kurt Barnes  
Lang Lowery  
Anita George  
Martini Shaw (arrived late)

- **Meeting opened with prayer** by Gene Lowe who chaired meeting as Chair Martini Shaw had funeral responsibilities during meeting time.
- **Discussion** around a “Call Meeting” to be held at Episcopal Church Center March 8, 2018 (Participants as listed include Canon Shaw; Canon Callaway; Dr. Everett Ward; St. Aug. Board Chair; St. Aug. Development Person (Fr. Fisher); UBE National President, (Canon Annette Buchanan); Missioner for Black Ministries of the Episcopal Church, (Fr. Ron Byrd); Treasurer and CFO of the Episcopal Church (Mr. Kurt Barnes); Consultants (Ms. Tara Holley and Fr. Lang Lowery).
  - It was reported that this meeting was called because Ron Byrd asked why “everyone” does not know about the status of SAU and Voorhees. Committee asked Jamie to follow on this by asking Ron Byrd to elaborate on his concerns by discussing who had not been advised and who should have been.
  - HBCU Committee does not agree with the decision to not have St. Augustines’ and Voorhees’ choirs participate in worship services at General Convention (This has increased the colleges’ visibility in TEC). In lieu of a letter from the Committee, it is requested that Chair Shaw engage a “conversation” at this meeting around this decision. Also, in this regard, Kurt Barnes volunteered to speak with Michael Hunn who is responsible for worship services at GC.
- **Lang Lowery** gave extensive reports on St. Augustine’s and Voorhees colleges.
  - **Voorhees**
  - Lang announced an upcoming “Big Weekend” board retreat at Voorhees. Presenters, Conway, Holley, and Lowery will address the themes *fundraising and enrollment*.
  - Local bishops unable to attend retreat. Much needed improvement of relations between Voorhees administration and the SC dioceses.
  - Roofing at Voorhees requires more work but at same cost.
  - **St. Augustines**
  - Finally moving to fund accounting software.
  - Need a good Controller; search continues—currently, bringing in accounting temps.

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- Material weaknesses must be removed. Auditors need to see operating in new software system for at least two months (converting from Great Plains for profit to NFP modules).
- Rice Financial and Dept. of Ed. have agreed to permit St. Agnus development. Expectation is April or May to achieve surveys, legal work, etc.
- Re “Putting good money after bad?”: Press releases have identified SACS warnings, etc. SACS does not see SAU as a poor university. Has significant assets; active and committed student body, staff, faculty. Just needs time
- If all bridges are not achieved, we may have to appeal/sue.
- Achieving a surplus will largely depend on fundraising work to cure the deficit.
- **Tara Holley** was unable to provide an update on her work as she was attending conference in a different time zone and had not reconciled her calendar. She sent apologies to the Committee.
- **Other Business, including the upcoming Face-to-Face meeting will be taken up at the next Committee** meeting scheduled for April 6, 2018 at 9:00am EST and 8:00am CST.

Combined notes: APG and Kurt Barnes  
**Submitted by Anita George**