

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

April 15, 2019

Minutes of the Teleconference

Attending the meeting:

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe.

CONSULTANTS: Canon Lang Lowery. REGRETS: Ms. Cecilia Malm.

INVITED GUESTS: Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple. Bishop Sam Rodman

STAFF: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Fr. Ronald Byrd, Ms. Nancy Caparulo.

ABSENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Sean Decatur, Canon Dr. Anita George, Bishop Arthur Williams.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM EDT. Canon Lowery offered a prayer.

Minutes from March 25 were considered, moved (Michele), seconded (Jamie), and approved as presented.

Bishop Anne gave an update on matters at St. Augustine's regarding board composition, development, the imminent departure of Dr. Hairston, and status of board nominations.

When trustees had the special meeting on March 12, depending on how the trustees are counted, there were 7 vacancies and the board was not fully complemented at that time. Three of six people nominated were added in March. There are now 7 people officially nominated according to the bylaws of the college. Bishop Anne reviewed the names of the nominees. All but two are Episcopalian. The members of the nominating committee voted for the three members who were added to the board in March. The Annual Meeting is April 18.

Bishop Anne noted that there have been no Finance Committee meetings since January, so there is no clarity about the current status and where the school is likely to be at the end of June financially.

Bishop Sam joined the call at 9:20. Apparently a Finance Committee meeting was to be scheduled for today. Bishops Sam and Anne met with President Faulcon and are impressed with him and his efforts.

Canon Lowery spoke with President Faulcon's administrative assistant and followed up with an e-mail. There has been no return call or message as yet. He did hear through the grapevine that there had been an overdraft of funds last year, necessitating a pay-back via a payment plan. If true, this would raise a concern for cash flow this year perhaps as early as June, and if the overdraft did indeed happen, then this could also be an internal process and control problem. Canon Lowery mentioned that Dr. Hairston, who is leaving, was in charge of institutional advancement as well as buildings and grounds.

Mr. Barnes noted that a requirement of block grant recipients is that of reports every six months. 2019-2021 block grants had already been advanced, however, so a request might be made for a report. Mr. Barnes will ask for one. Bishop Anne recalled a report being made in January to the board, which was encouraging.

Updated 4/25/19

Approved April 29, 2019

The Perkins Grant was closed but was an unusual grant in that it was a way for the university to add money for scholarships in one bundle. The school was liable for the amount to the Department of Education. All Perkins Grants must now be paid back and Canon Lowery does not believe that the university has reconciled the millions that will be due and owing.

Voorhees College

Canon Lowery reported that things are good there. The school is anxious to re-establish The Episcopal Church working with them to raise funds. There are opportunities afoot and they would like to be working with TEC. Canon Shaw added that the effort would include one of the new Voorhees board members. Mr. Barnes said that Ms. Malm would be the point person for that conversation. The chaplaincy search at Voorhees was discussed in some depth. Bottom line: things are going well at Voorhees.

The Chaplain at St. Augustine's is continuing energetically.

Next meeting: April 29 at 9:00 AM ET.

With thanks and blessings, Canon Shaw adjourned the meeting at 9:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee