

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

September 12, 2019

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Father Ronald Byrd, Scott Evenbeck. **Those absent:** Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Dr. Sean Decatur, Canon Anita George, Canon Michele Hagans.

Guests: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Canon Lang Lowery, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Sam Rodman, and Cecilia Malm.

Dr. Lowe called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:01 AM EDT in the absence of Canon Shaw, who was traveling. It was noted that Bishop Williams had resigned his position on the committee owing to the demands of other obligations.

The August Minutes were deferred until the next meeting.

Guest Remarks/Updates

Bishop Anne reported, following Canon Shaw's notes to the committee, on developments at the college. Enrollment at St. Augustine's is increased, classes have started, and some good grounds work has been accomplished on campus. She discussed cash flow issues and staff turnovers. The search committee has identified two candidates for the chaplain position. The presidential position is advertised and a prospectus is available. There are already more than 60 applicants for the position. Chapel attendance is good. Fundraising has begun with the Alpha fraternity in partnership with the diocese and a fundraising company has been engaged to help in that area. President's search committee is being chaired by John Larkin, who is on the board, is an alumnus, and an Episcopalian. Applications will close on October 15 with a target to make a decision by January 2020. Bishop Anne will forward the position description to the committee to provide an opportunity to offer suggestions.

Canon Lowery discussed the enrollment process at the school and circumstances concerning the financial aid office with regard to the enrollment. Bishop Sam reported from minutes of last week's campus committee of 807 students, 607 returning for fall semester. New student projection is 338 anticipated, a number of which may still be in the enrollment process.

St. Augustine's received a generous matching grant from the Diocese of Southern Ohio for new contributions. In year one the matching funds available are \$50K. Bishop Anne asked that the committee work to cultivate gifts to the university, making sure to let possible donors know that the gift will be matched.

Voorhees College

Canon Lowery was at Voorhees several times during the summer. Much progress has been made on the infrastructure there. Air conditioning has been a major issue but the dorms have been upgraded and the central processing plant is working well. The chaplaincy job has been re-posted. Enrollment is anticipated to be up this year but Canon Lowery would like to assess the data and report in October. An interior designer will be working on designs for the dorms in order to upgrade them. This work is seen as a possible way to generate cash flow by offering naming opportunities for the rooms.

Ms. Malm has been meeting with the advancement team. The biggest impact idea is that of approaching Trinity Wall Street about supporting Voorhees through capacity-building grants. The dormitories at the school, improved, will help increase enrollment. Long-term sustainability is focus of the grants. The Rev. Jackson has agreed to visit the campus. Ms. Malm met with Lynette Wilson at the church center about covering the PB's trip to Voorhees,

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giving it the maximum coverage, and using it as a focus for supporting the school. Rev. Tim Black has agreed to host Dr. Evans on a fundraising day that will be modeled on one that was done for St. Augustine's some time ago that yielded \$40K. The PB's visit is scheduled for April 7, Founder's Day.

Pres. Faulcon contacted Ms. Malm to discuss fundraising, specifically within Episcopal parishes. Bishop Anne asked that St. Augustine's keep the fund-raisers apprised of the actual dollars received from the churches. Many Episcopalians have given money and have not received letters of thanks. The donor relationships need to be tended. Ms. Malm talked about various methods and appeals that work for raising funds. The Absalom Jones appeal is on the horizon. Ms. Malm will contact the cathedrals and major churches to let them know there is an opportunity for the HBCUs through that appeal. Canon Lowery will be following up with Bishop Doyle.

Discussion of a face-to-face meeting was deferred until Canon Shaw was available to lead it.

Joint choir programming has been held in abeyance until the chaplaincies in both St. Aug's and Voorhees are filled.

Bishop Anne reported the Interim Chaplain and the choir director at St. Augustine's are working together on planning services for the fall.

Future meeting: Monday, October 7 at 9:00 AM. This meeting will focus on the presidential position description.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee