

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

October 7, 2019

Minutes of the Teleconference

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

Guests: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Canon Lang Lowery, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copples, and Ms. Cecilia Malm.
Absent: Father Ronald Byrd.

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM EDT. Bishop Anne offered a prayer.

The agenda was rearranged to accommodate Bishop Anne's need to leave the meeting soon. The next meeting date was made for Wednesday, November 6th.

Minutes were moved (Gene), seconded (Michele) and carried without opposition.

President's Search Report

Bishop Anne gave an update on the president search at St. Augustine's. There are many applicants. The search committee had been divided into two subgroups to review CVs and letters to determine which of the candidates fit the criteria established for the personal qualities sought for the position. Dr. John Larkins is chair and an alumnus of the university and very active in The Episcopal Church. The process is moving forward.

A board meeting in September created a conflict with the HOB meeting, so neither Bishop Anne nor Bishop Sam was able to attend. There was a respectful student protest over the dismissal of the dean of the business school. There has been notable staff turnover. Dr. Larkins has been doing some fundraising. Enrollment is above the level need to achieve the budget. Pop Williams, a former Olympic coach and coach at the school, had been in a serious motor vehicle accident. Matters around land and loans remain active. Bishop Sam and Bishop Anne have identified a likely chaplain for the school and have written a letter of recommendation. The interim chaplain has done a great job.

Canon Lowery discussed staffing in the financial offices.

Dr. Lowe was curious to know whether the board and search committee were in sync about the president search. Bishop Anne spoke in very positive terms concerning the search.

Dr. George asked about board development activities. Bishop Anne described the retreat that had occurred with an outside consultant.

At 9:33 Bishop Anne left the call.

Consultants' Report

Ms. Malm had been contacted by Interim President Faulcon to discuss some of the most pressing funding concerns. He was unclear about the level of funding the school receives in various forms from the DFMS. She discussed grant applications with him. They are exploring the possibilities of funding from VTS. They discussed other fund-raising within the Episcopal community and ways to go about it. Fr. Callaway and Ms. Malm are working together to have special focus days at churches in the D.C. area. The Absalom Jones appeal will go out in January. The success of the Good Friday offering was used as a model for success of the Absalom Jones appeal. She has been working to establish a relationship with Trinity Wall Street to explore possible funding from them. Scheduling a visit with Reverend Jackson has been a challenge.

Canon Lowery has experienced the similar difficulty in having Reverend Jackson schedule a meeting with Dr. Evans at Voorhees College. He believes it is a misunderstanding about polity. Canon Shaw will help with this. Dr. Evans plans to visit St. Paul's in Atlanta to discuss funding. There is a meeting to be scheduled in November. Canon Lowery will give the enrollment trend analysis at the next meeting. Canon Shaw had heard that St. Augustine's enrollment is up.

Face-to-Face meeting for this committee

Canon Shaw invited ideas about when and where. Dr. Lowe felt that the Zoom meetings are serving the committee well. He recommended continuing to convene by conference call. The PB will be visiting Voorhees on April 7, 2020, which is Founder's Day. Canon Shaw thought it might be a good time for a physical meeting. Mr. Barnes pointed out that Holy Week falls on that week next year. Canon Shaw will pursue this idea with Mr. Barnes and Canon Lowery.

There being no other business, Canon Shaw adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee