

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

April 23, 2020

Minutes of the Teleconference

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

Guests: Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Sam Rodman, Father Ronald Byrd, Ms. Cecilia Malm, Mr. Kurt Barnes, Mr. Lang Lowrey.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and Fr. Callaway offered a prayer.

The March Minutes were moved, seconded and approved as presented.

Voorhees Update

Mr. Lowrey reported that all courses were moved online and the school is meeting the challenges occasioned by the pandemic. Staff is being rotated. The Founders' Day celebration cancellation was a substantial disappointment. Graduation will happen virtually for the time being. One COVID case reported on campus was President Evans, who had been traveling. He was hospitalized for 5 days and has returned to work. Summer courses will be entirely online.

They've lost a great deal of money in meal and housing programs and in the gala fund-raisers that bring in significant dollars. The aggregate loss is between \$200K and \$300K. Mr. Lowrey's focus at this time is helping them recover some of the lost income. They have applied for help through the CARES Act. Ms. Alexander remarked at how well done the Founders Day celebration was. A short discussion about bank responsiveness followed. Mr. Barnes talked about the slowness of the larger banks to respond to applicants for help.

Bishop Waldo asked how much recovery of the shortfall was anticipated through their CARES Act application. Mr. Lowrey responded they hoped for payroll recovery, about \$500K over 2 ½ months. He added that it is more a future problem than an impending emergency. It was noted that all the major universities will give back their CARES assistance dollars.

The search for a new chaplain at Voorhees is on hold.

Ms. Malm reported that Absalom Jones money continues to come in but there is a drop in the quantity of mail since the 'pause' went into effect. The PB's video was sent to Voorhees for the Founders Day celebration.

St. Augustine's Update

Bishop Anne talked about the annual board meeting that took place last week. The school has applied for the PPP and hopes to receive \$2.4 million but have not yet heard back. In addition from the CARES Act they think they are eligible for \$1.4 million. This is the money they hope to receive from the stimulus money. They're doing online courses and plan to move their summer program online. No cases of COVID-19 infections have been reported.

Election of new trustees took place at the annual meeting and a board retreat is scheduled for June. The annual meeting was held to avoid delay in bringing on new trustees. Bishops Anne and Sam discussed the board actions in some detail.

A draft letter from the Presiding Bishop to the board was reviewed and discussed in order for this committee to support it. It was moved to support the PB's request (Bishop Sam), seconded (Dr. Lowe). Discussion followed in some detail. Motion carried, including the support of Dr. Evenbeck, who had registered his support with Canon Shaw prior to this meeting by phone.

On the bright side, Chaplain Hershey had her baby and attended a call with the campus ministers across the diocese last evening.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20 at 9:00 AM.

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 9:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee