

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

August 5, 2020

Minutes of the Teleconference

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

Guests: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Father Ronald Byrd, Bishop Sam Rodman, Canon Lang Lowrey, Ms. Cecilia Malm, Dr. Irving P. McPhail, Ms. Debra Jones.

The meeting came to order at 10:00 AM with a prayer offered by Bishop Waldo.

The roll was taken and the minutes of June 15 were moved (Callaway), seconded (Lowe) and approved as presented.

Fr. Shaw extended a welcome to the 12th President of St. Augustine's University (SAU), Dr. Irving P. McPhail. Fr. Shaw also introduced Debra Jones, Director of Institutional Advancement at the school. Dr. McPhail addressed the committee regarding the support of SAU. He has been active there since July 30 and discussed vision and strategy for the coming 90 days. He described the time as a "pivotal moment" focusing his remarks on the concurrence of the Black Lives Matter movement, the pandemic, and the recent substantial support to HBCUs by the greater corporate community. Dr. McPhail's desire is to develop new academic programs to advance society.

Bishop Sam talked about the process leading to the engagement of Dr. McPhail. There were exceptional candidates from which to choose. No update was available at this time about the re-opening.

Dr. McPhail and Ms. Jones rejoined the meeting in progress to entertain any questions that the committee might have. Fr. Callaway talked about the presidents of Episcopal colleges and an upcoming 100th birthday of Prezell Robinson. As it happens, Dr. McPhail and Dr. Lowe were in IEM together in 1988. Dr. Cunningham offered any help the committee might provide to Dr. McPhail, who closed with thanks and appreciation to the committee.

Consultant Reports

Ms. Malm spoke for development activities. The Absalom Jones appeal is wrapping up with \$41,629 dollars raised this year. Over \$100K has been raised since the beginning of this particular appeal and Ms. Malm is very encouraged about the future possibilities of the appeal.

The video that the PB has done is now in hand and will be assessed as to its value for fundraising at both SAU and Voorhees. The search for donors with capacity for major gifts continues.

Canon Lowry reported on Voorhees. They have decided to go online in the fall. Many revenue streams will be interrupted as a result (\$500K to \$1 million). A case statement for major donors has been developed, hopefully to make up for the loss. One major donor was identified. A call was scheduled with Prince Brown for next week to discuss a fundraising approach. The most significant challenge is enrolment; a loss of 10%-15% has been factored into their plans. Some HBCUs have reported 40% reduction in enrollment. A new board matter was briefly discussed.

Finally, it was reported that structuring Chaplain Hershey's position at SAU is happening in order to make it more secure. Bishop Anne and Mr. Barnes are doing this ongoing work.

Next meeting: September 23 at 10:00 AM.

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee