

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

May 13, 2021

Minutes of the Teleconference

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

Regrets: Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple.

Guests: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Ms. Cecilia Malm, Mr. K. Christopher Stephenson and Mr. Richard America.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Bishop Waldo offered a prayer.

The April Minutes were moved (Lowe), seconded (Hagans) and approved as presented.

The Agenda was looked at, specific to proposals around St. Paul's College.

St. Augustine's Update

Bishop Rodman discussed the most recent board meeting and the proposed changes in the by-laws and corrections thereto. Returning association for the suffragan bishop of North Carolina will be an ongoing aim. An Archives research found no provision that TEC should approve by-laws changes.

Two new trustees have been appointed and the atmosphere in the group appears to be solid. A special meeting was called to look at maintenance issues for campus buildings.

Documentation for payment of the chaplain's pension is in the works.

Voorhees Update

Bp. Waldo talked about the new president search. There were 100 applicants all told. A position description is being edited to reflect the purview of TEC and authority of the Diocese of SC. The document was shared and reviewed by the committee. Cn. Hagans noted the high quality of the original. A look was taken at a timeline for moving the document forward.

St. Paul's College - Rebirth

Mr. Chris Stephenson and Mr. Richard America (an economist from Georgetown University) joined the meeting at 10:30. Mr. Stephenson is president of a St. Paul's alumni group that hopes to revive the college and get it up and running. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Buying back the school property back and becoming accredited.
- Identity of the people involved along with their activities.
- An educational platform (returning to liberal arts) differing from the original.
- The goal of being a competitive school with job-ready programs, adjusted for market requirements.

- Increased student population from 600 to 1600-1800
- Offering a big entrepreneurial component that helps launch businesses, acting as a catalyst for economic development in that area of Virginia.
- Hoping TEC at every level will decide to support the transformation.
- Collaborations with Bard, Kenyon, Hobart, Sewanee and all episcopal-related colleges.
- 3 core values: humility, transparency, unity with the emphasis on transparency
- Aiming for a diverse student population from lower and middle income families.
- Already engaged in identifying major donors and alumni for financial support.

A brief Q&A covered [1] financial goals that include buying the property (\$3 million), raising an operating fund to cover first 5 years (\$15 million) and a permanent endowment (\$10 million a year going forward indefinitely); [2] maintenance, repairs, upgrades of buildings and funding for same; and [3] the story of how the movement to restore the school began. Mr. Stephenson stressed the focus of putting the onus on the alumni for the success of the project. He and Mr. America left the meeting at 10:58 AM.

The ensuing discussion looked at the nature of the proposal. It was agreed that Cn. Shaw will contact Bishop Haynes to apprise her of the matter as Lawrenceville, the former site of St. Paul's, is in the diocese of Southern Virginia.

Consultant Update

Ms. Malm reported that the Absalom Jones appeal is doing very well in 2021. She and Cn. Lowery meet at Voorhees to work on strengthening relationships with regional churches and looking at ways support can be increased through outreach. She will make certain to connect with the newly-elected bishop.

A meeting is coming up soon at St. Augustine's to look at new approaches and relationships with a large parish in the area.

Next meeting – Wednesday, June 16 at 10:00 AM

A motion was made (Waldo), seconded (Alexander) and agreed to adjourn at 11:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff Support to the Committee