

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

April 6, 2022

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Canon Anita George, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Sam Rodman Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley.

Regrets: Dr. Scott Evenbeck and Canon Martini Shaw,

Guests: Fr. Lang Lowery and Canon Ron Byrd.

Regrets: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Fr. Lang Lowery, and Ms. Cecilia Malm.

In Canon Shaw's absence Canon Hagans called the meeting to order at 2:59 PM EDT and Canon Callaway offered a prayer.

Owing to the lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, the minutes from February were deferred until the next meeting.

Voorhees Update

Bishop Ruth observed that it is an exciting time at Voorhees with the inauguration happening, Founders Day, celebration of the 125th anniversary, and the name change to Voorhees University. President Hopkins is excited about upcoming committee member visit. They have received a substantial grant. There is no candidate for the chaplaincy yet. Bishop Ruth thanked the committee for making suggestions for that position. She emphasized the importance of getting the right person for the position.

St. Augustine's Update

Ron Byrd met with Bishop Anne and Chaplain Hershey about her compensation package. President McPhail has decided to use the TEC grants work in their entirety for the chaplain's. Constitution of the chaplain's salary was reviewed. Students were recognized at a recent worship service. Canon Byrd talked about the various programs that Chaplain Hershey has initiated to engage the students. A \$179K grant from Trinity Wall Street was awarded to the chapel.

Three students will be going to SAU from Honduras in the fall. The paperwork is done and they are ready to come. Support for the students is needed from various sources to fill a \$7,000 shortfall to cover tuition, room, and board. The budget is \$27K. The Office of Black Ministries (OBM) will provide transportation from Honduras. The covered \$20K came from TEC trusts, the Absalom Jones tuition discount, and the Kellogg Scholarship Fund. Expenses were reviewed.

Reaffirmation of the accreditation of the school is on the calendar.

Bishop Sam reported also, noting that the next board meeting is in late April, after SACS and before commencement. He applauded President McPhail's creative and generous approach to giving the TEC funds to the chaplaincy. There is still work ongoing regarding appropriate health insurance coverage for Chaplain Hersey and her family. Next step is meeting with CFO of the Diocese of NC, the finance representative in SAU, the chaplain and the bishops to decide how this will be worked out.

In February the college hosted a diocesan Absalom Jones event with Chaplain Hersey in charge. Inauguration day will be April 29 at 10 AM – celebratory visit to include members of the committee. Commencement is the next day.

St. Paul's Update

A celebration was held for one of the founders on Sunday last (April 3), available on YouTube. They are trying to include the committee in the energy around the rebirth of the school.

Remarks

Mr. Barnes and Ms. Malm were not present to discuss fund raising. However, Mr. Barnes had notified the committee via e-mail that the Absalom Jones appeal has realized \$148K thus far in 2022, compared with the results of the entirety of 2021 at \$112K. Terrific results.

Canon Callaway visited Voorhees last week and talked about the history of the 2021 cancelled visit. He discussed the nature of the visit, focusing on the student body, and noted the work of President Hopkins. There is a desire there to partner with Trinity Wall Street to increase student opportunities – scholarships, sustained support, summer internships, etc.

OBM is sponsoring Chaplain Hershey and three students to General Convention. There was also attendance at the National Cathedral for HBCU celebration day. It was emphasized that leadership has made a big difference in the relationship between SAU and TEC.

Voorhees students are not sponsored at GC because of the lack of a chaplain at present.

Bishop Sam commended for reading the report from presiding officers on truth-telling, racial reconciliation, and healing in the lead-up to GC. It is included in the virtual binder.

The agenda having been concluded, the next meeting date was discussed and agreed for May 11 at 9:00 AM EDT.

Canon Hagans adjourned the meeting at 3:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee