

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
February 6, 2023

Members Present

Krystal Akehinmi	Holly Mills	Arthur Banton
Charria Campbell	Harry Ingle	Sayota Knight
Keisha Claybrooks	Joshua Gordon	Tammy George
Daniel Allen	Margo Dirkson	Troy Smith
Edward Driggers	Na'Quaja Gaines	

Members Absent

Gregory Holt	Dr. Polk-Johnson	Robert Owens
Wes Bridges	Rosemarie Black	

The meeting began at 1:47pm.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Holly Mills. Harry Ingle seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2023, meeting was made by Harry Ingle. It was seconded by Holly Mills. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Meeting

Good News

Holly Mills shared that it was her birthday today. The membership extended "Happy Birthday" greetings to her.

Updating CSB Procedures

Quorum must be met if there are any items that require the Commission to vote on. A discussion took place as to many ways to ensure there are enough members present at the meetings to meet quorum. It was suggested that a "gentle reminder" be included in the email sent to the

membership regarding the upcoming meeting and asking them to please send a proxy if an absence is anticipated.

CSB Procedures

The CSB procedures need an update in certain areas. These changes concern the day and time of the meeting, the number of members that need to be present to reach quorum, and other adjustments in language. Members serving on this committee are Holly Mills, Sayota Knight, and Troy Smith.

Subcommittee Reports

CSB Diversity Advocate Award

A discussion regarding updating, clarification, and criteria of this award took place. The award is to honor an individual whose advocacy work has been to improve the experiences of black students, faculty and staff on campus. It was stated that it may be harder for individuals to be recognized as advocates. It was noted that sometimes when an individual is honored for their work in this area they can be targeted, lose employment, or experience other negative issues. A committee consisting of Krystal Akehinmi, Troy Smith, Allen Driggers and Arthur Banton was established. Charria Campbell will help. It was suggested that a meeting with Dr. Robert Owens should be scheduled for further discussion.

50th Anniversary of Hip Hop

The 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop is August 11th, 2023. Arthur Banton is teaching a course on this. This item will be moved to the March 6th agenda where more information will be shared.

MLK Week January 16th – 19th, 2023

Charria Campbell stated the week went well. Events included:

Monday, January 16th

TTU Tech Village food pantry as well as the Library food pantry were restocked. Community Service Graduate Assistant Anna Nakamoto coordinated this event. Students and others gathered to help in this venture. Krystal Akehinmi and her son were among the participants.

Tuesday, January 17th

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc

The annual MLK Silent March took place at 11am, marching from the President's lawn to Derryberry Hall. It was well attended.

Wednesday, January 18th

Ten students and faculty gathered to make boxed lunches that were distributed to the Cookeville Mission. Victor Kline and Chartwells donated all the food and packaging materials. A student volunteer took the meals to the Mission.

Thursday, January 19th

"The Candlelight Vigil", was coordinated by Lekeisha Claybrooks, Coordinator of Student Activities and Campus Life. Lekeisha did a wonderful job and many stated the speakers were well organized, and student input was well received.

Social Engagement

Margo Dirkson spoke about "Show Some Love" for February. CSB members will be assigned a list of three people whom they are to encourage by sending a note of encouragement, card, email, etc.

Black History Month Trivia

The daily trivia and prize give away has begun. Great prizes are available for the winners. Students are encouraged to check Tech Times for trivia questions and updates.

Scholars Awards Luncheon

The event is April 4th, at 11am in the Multipurpose Room. A list of graduating students has been received. They will be notified about the luncheon. Charria and others on the committee will speak with Victor Kline of Chartwells regarding the meal.

Black History Month

The flyers are included in the CSB files as well as posted on campus, Tech Times and other social media sites. The events are:

Thursday, February 2nd

Jonathan Blanchard presented a session on "The History of Hip Hop" at 11am in the TPR. At 6pm "The Block Party" concert was held in the MPR.

Tuesday, February 7th

Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton will speak at 6pm in the MPR. Mr. Hinton was wrongly convicted and exonerated after 30 years through the efforts of the Equal Justice Initiative.

Thursday, February 9th

Mr. Jeff Hobbs will speak on "Cherokee Freedmen" with associate Professor Troy Smith. This event is held in the RUC TPR at 6pm.

Sunday, February 19th

The Gospel Extravaganza is at 2:30pm at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, 106 West 7th Street, Cookeville, TN 38501.

Tuesday, February 21st

"Racing Through Time", a student led history exhibit is scheduled in the Tech Pride Room.

The "Soul Food" Fellowship begins at 5:30pm in the RUC Multipurpose Room. Enjoy the soulful flavors of Memphis Jim and Samella's House.

Wednesday, February 22nd

Center Stage presents Ebonie Bell at 7:30pm in Derryberry Hall Auditorium.

Sunday, February 26th

The Impact Banquet begins at 5:30pm at the Leslie Town Center. Mary Alice McClellan and Lori Jackson Strode will be honored.

Monday, February 27th

"Paint Night" with Marc Burnett, alumnus and former VP of Student Affairs, begins at 6pm in the RUC Tech pride Room.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourned the meeting was made by Edward Driggers. It was seconded by Daniel Allen. The meeting ended at 2:44pm. The next meeting will be virtual on March 6, 2023, using Microsoft teams.