

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
February 7, 2022

Members Present

Arthur Banton	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Krystal Akehinmi	Simone McKelvey	Margo Dirkson
Rosemarie Black	Holly Mills	Rufaro Chitiyo
Edward Driggers	Sayota Knight	Harry Ingle
Mason Martin	Jamaal Thompson	

Members Absent

Gregory Holt	Daniel Allen	Robert Owens
Troy Smith	Jimmy Jones	Dr. Polk-Johnson

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, February 7, 2022 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Arthur Banton at 2:36pm due to technical difficulties.

Approval of Recording of the Meeting

Krystal Akehinmi motioned that the meeting be recorded. The motion was second by Simone McKelvey.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Krystal Akehinmi. The motion was second by Simone McKelvey.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2022 with corrections was made by Simone McKelvey. It was second by Krystal Akehinmi.

Proceedings

Committee Reports

Committee for MLK Week of Service

Charria Campbell reported that there were about a total of 20 student volunteers for the events. Two students accompanied Charria to the Dollar Tree to shop for food for the pantry in the Library. Ten students went to Walmart to shop for food items for the main food pantry. A team of students waited at the library to help with stocking the shelves. Another group was at the Tech village food pantry to assist with restocking shelves there.

Book Drive

Ten students volunteered to help with the book drive. Over 1000 books were distributed to four locations. Two distribution sites were Head Start programs. The other two locations were areas that provided books to all ages.

Students participating in the MLK week events were encouraged to share and post photos of their service in social media. An increase in student participants this year was noted. Simone McKelvey mentioned that it would be nice if CSB used some funds to benefit students. Launch Pad had contacted the Marketing Manager in the dining hall who printed off "Dining Dollar" vouchers that could be used in the awards drawings for student volunteer efforts. Symone shared the process of getting this approved. A memo requesting such action must be first sent to Dr. Stinson for her approval. Once approved, the request can be sent to the marketing manager of the Caf.

Black History Month Report

Arthur Banton congratulated Krystal Akehinmi and team members Troy Smith, and Edward Driggers in the operation of the Black History Month Quiz Bowl. It was reported that the first day of the Quiz Bowl there was one response. Second day there were 20 responses with 13 correct entries. The third day there were 21 responses with 11 correct entries. The fourth day there were 18 responses with 13 correct entries. The sponsors for the prizes include: Chic Fil A who is giving every winner a free ice cream voucher; Simone McKelvey – City Girl Soaps; Upper Cumberland Mountain Store; the Iron Kitchen; Dean Lisa Zagumny of the College of Education has contributed a handmade crochet blanket.

Engagement & Social Committees

Social activities for the CSB group will be discussed later. CSB members are encouraged to participate in the February Black History Month activities. CSB Family fun Night will resume in March. An email will be sent out for suggestions.

Engagement and Wellness Survey Report

Arthur Banton shared the results from the report. There were 9 participants. There are 15 members in CSB so the report showed a little over half of the CSB responded. It was discussed that people may have not seen the email and to consider extending the survey although it was available for 6 weeks. Arthur will extend the survey until February 28th. Rufaro Chitiyo suggested after the results are processed, that a one page information report be created and shared with the membership.

The Spring Scholarship Banquet has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 11am in the MPR. Student achievers as well as the Outstanding Diversity Advocate will be recognized. CSB members are asked to nominate individuals to be considered for the honor of Outstanding Diversity Advocate. Margo Dirkson, Simone McKelvey and Charria Campbell are serving on the committee. Others are welcome to join them. CSB student members are encouraged to volunteer for the committee to participate in the planning and execution of such an event.

Other Such Matters

CSB members are encouraged to email their nominations for the Outstanding Diversity Advocate(s) immediately. The form was attached in the previous minutes and emails. All nominations should be emailed to Corinne Johnson (cjohnson@tnitech.edu) or Arthur Banton (abandon@tnitech.edu) by February 28, 2022. Arthur will email the list of nominees on March 2nd. The Commission will discuss the nominees and vote at the March 7th meeting.

Future Meetings

Edward Driggers and Charria Campbell exchanged email regarding having a location for future hybrid CSB meetings. Charria Campbell stated that the BCC Conference Room (RUC 270) is available.

Multicultural Affairs 2022 Black History Month Activities

Whole Month of February

CSB Daily Trivia

Sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Blacks

Monday, February 7th

Screening of the Movie "Harriet", 6pm Stonecipher Lecture Hall room 126

Co-sponsored with the Women's Center

Thursday, February 10th

W.O.W (Women of Worth) Night 6pm BCC (RUC 258)

Guest Speaker: VP of Student Affairs Dr. Polk-Johnson

Topic: "Experiences and Mental Health as A Black Woman"

Wednesday, February 16th

Soul Food Night Dinner 5pm Multipurpose Room (RUC 282)

Featuring a talk with the owners of Jim & Samella's House Memphis that was featured in Netflix's "Somebody Feed Phil".

Sunday, February 20th

Open Mic Night with BSU 5:30pm Backdoor Playhouse (Jere Whitson Building)

Organized by the Black Student Union

Wednesday, February 23rd, 6pm BCC (RUC 258)

"Remember Black Excellence" Trivia Night

Organized by NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers)

Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Rufaro Chitiyo. It was seconded by Charria Campbell. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:31pm. The next meeting will be on March 7, 2022 at 2:30pm.