

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
March 7, 2022

Members Present

Arthur Banton	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Krystal Akehinmi	Simone McKelvey	Margo Dirkson
Rosemarie Black	Holly Mills	Rufaro Chitiyo
Harry Ingle	Jimmy Jones	Robert Owens
Dr. Polk-Johnson		

Members Absent

Gregory Holt	Daniel Allen	Sayota Knight
Troy Smith	Jamaal Thompson	Edward Driggers
Mason Martin		

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, March 7, 2022 using the Teams Meet format. While technical difficulties were being addressed, Robert Owens spoke about the Niya Blair Hackworth "Lunch and Learn" workshop that occurred earlier in the day. He reminded everyone of the 6:30pm presentation: "Brave and Bold Conversations about Inclusiveness and Belonging: Niya Blair, Director of Inclusion for the NCAA" in Derryberry Hall Auditorium that is open to all. Dr. Owens also shared the Women in STEM Presentation that is scheduled on Wednesday, March 9th at 11am in the Laboratory Science Commons (LSC 1207). Following the presentation lunch will be held in the front meeting room of the Caf. Arthur Banton will present a presentation on Title 9 on March 21st at 8pm in Derryberry Hall Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend.

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Banton at 2:43pm.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Simone McKelvey. The motion was second by Margo Dirkson.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from February 7, 2022 with corrections was made by Charria Campbell. It was second by Rosemarie Black.

Proceedings

Committee Reports

Black History Month Report

Charria Campbell spoke about the “How Are You Doing?” wellness event presented by Cheya Thousand. Twenty students participated in this and were provided with encouraging ways to destress and better handle life experiences.

Krystal Akehinmi updated the Commission on the success of the Daily Black History Trivia Bowl. There were 56 participants. The questions were challenging and included well know people as well as people who are not commonly spoken of. Prizes were contributed from the Dean of the College of Education, Simone McKelvey, Iron Kitchen, Chick Fil-A and others. Prizes were given to the grand prize winner, winners of the daily contests, and to all who participated. It was noted that most players were non-black. Krystal stated that this experience has provided a good basis on how to do this again especially with questions, set up and prizes.

Charria Campbell spoke of several other events that went on during February 2022 Black History Month. Included were:

Women of Worth Student group meeting on February 10th who featured Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Polk-Johnson.

Coloring Contests were held in the BCC throughout the month providing the students time to be creative as well as relax. “Dining Dollars” provided by Chartwells Catering were gifted to the winners of the contests.

Soul Food Night on February 16th was very well received. Talbert Fleming and family catered the event with soul food cooking from “Jim and Samella’s Home” restaurant in Memphis, TN. There were over 150 attendees at this event representing diverse ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds. President Phil Oldham and First Lady Kari

Oldham attended, as well as Student Affairs Vice President Dr. Polk-Johnson and her family.

“Open Mic Night” went well on Sunday, February 20th. The audience included great diversity in ethnicity, race, age, etc.

“Black Women in Sports”, a presentation by Dr. Arthur Banton, completed Black History Month activities on February 28th.

Some members of the Student Government Association contacted the Black Cultural Center stating they were interested in sharing the message about diversity, equity and inclusion on this campus. They borrowed materials from the office for a display table on February 24th.

Engagement & Social Committees

Krystal Akehinmi stated the CSB social event will be on March 24th at 11am in Bartoo Hall. The Commission is invited to bring their own lunch. Lite refreshments would be available. It was stated that snacks and refreshments left over from the Diversity Retreat on March 4th could be used for this event. It was proposed by Arthur Banton that sandwiches be available for the event. Arthur Banton presented the motion that \$50 would be set aside for food. This was seconded by Krystal Akehinmi. The motioned carried. Rufaro Chitiyo mentioned that Firehouse Subs sometimes donates sandwiches for organizations. That information is most helpful to know in event planning. Anyone who would like to bring a snack to share is welcome to do so.

It was mentioned by Corinne Johnson and supported by Jimmy Jones that anything purchased for CSB and submitted as a receipt or requested for reimbursement must not have any taxes or gratuities of any kind on the receipt. Jimmy Jones stated that if taxes appear on the receipt, the Business Office will require the purchaser of that receipt to repay the Business Office for all taxes and/or gratuities listed on the receipt.

Other Such Matters

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 were asked to nominate individuals to be considered for the honor of Outstanding Diversity Advocate. Margo Dirksen, Simone McKelvey and Charria Campbell will serve on the event planning committee. A motion to order additional mugs to be given to graduates was made by Margo Dirksen. It was seconded by Krystal Akehinmi. The motion carried. Mugs will be purchased for the graduates as in the previous year. A list including of graduates, student honorees, and distinguished guests is needed. The committee will meet soon to discuss the menu and place the necessary order(s).

Diversity Advocate

Robert Owens suggested asking Sayota Knight (who was not present at this meeting) for more information about the two individuals he recommended for the "Outstanding Diversity Advocate" award. Those two nominees are Dr. Julia Gruber and Joey Yother. The CSB suspended the vote on these nominations pending more information by Sayota Knight.

Engagement and Wellness Survey

Arthur has collected the survey data regarding how employees feel here at TTU, and in Cookeville, TN. The report will be available by April 4th.

The CSB Annual Report

The CSB annual report is due soon. This report is generated by the Chair of the academic year. The report requires the signature of Dr. Robert Owens and Charria Campbell. A copy of the 2020-2021 report was requested from Corinne Johnson by Robert Owens to be emailed to Arthur Banton. Assistance in writing this report was offered by Robert Owens.

The Position of Chair of CSB

Dr. Arthur Banton will complete his term as Chair of CSB in June, 2022. It is customary that the Vice Chair assumes the position of Chair for the upcoming academic 2022-2023 year. Simone McKelvey will assume position as Chair. At the April 4th meeting, a nomination and vote for Vice Chair will be taken.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Krystal Akehinmi. It was seconded by Rosemarie Black. The motion carried unanimously. The

meeting ended at 3:42pm. The next meeting will be on April 4, 2022. For those wanting to meet in person, a hybrid meeting can be set up in the Conference Room of the BCC to be used to accommodate the Commission on the Status of Blacks. Other rooms that are set for hybrid communications will also be considered.