

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
April 4, 2022

Members Present

Arthur Banton	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Simone McKelvey	Margo Dirkson	
Rosemarie Black	Holly Mills	Rufaro Chitiyo
Robert Owens	Dr. Polk-Johnson	

Members Absent

Gregory Holt	Daniel Allen	Sayota Knight
--------------	--------------	---------------

Quorum was not met so a discussion took place. The discussion began at 2:36pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was tabled due to quorum was not met.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the March 7th meeting were tabled due to quorum not being met.

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 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 services

Engagement & Social Committees

Simone stated the social event was held in Bartoo Hall at 11am on March 24th. Those attended were Arthur Banton, Krystal Akehinmi, Simone McKelvey and Margo Dirkson. People brought their lunch and snacks were provided. It was a time of fellowship, conversation and a few rounds of UNO.

The Spring Scholarship Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 11am in the MPR. Student achievers as well as the Outstanding Diversity Advocate, Michael Birdwell PhD, will be recognized. A list including graduates, student honorees, and distinguished guests will be provided. Certificates for graduates and student achievers are printed and mugs for graduates are ready. The Food has been ordered from Grade A Catering for the event. Marc Burnett has allowed several of his paintings to be on display for the event. The "Step and Repeat" photo backdrop will be set up. Simone, Margo and Charria have done a w

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 CSM 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 with the conference Room of the BCC to be used to accommodate the Commission on the Status of Blacks.