

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
November 1, 2021

Members Present

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| Arthur Banton | Charria Campbell | Arthur Banton |
| Krystal Akehinmi | Simone McKelvey | Robert Owens |
| Rosemarie Black | Holly Mills | Rufaro Chitiyo |
| Troy Smith | Edward Driggers | Sayota Knight |
| Mason Martin | Daniel Allen | |

Members Absent

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| Harry Ingle | Gregory Holt | Jimmy Jones |
| Margo Dirkson | Jamaal Thompson | |

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, November 1, 2021 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Arthur Banton at 2:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. Troy Smith made the motion. Simone McKelvey seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the October 4, 2021 minutes was made by Troy Smith. It was seconded by Simone McKelvey. The motion carried unanimously.

Proceedings

Committee Reports

Expectations & Wellness Committee

Arthur Banton is working on digitally setting up the expectations and wellness survey. He will send out an email informing the Commission when the survey is active and accepting submissions.

Committee for MLK Week of Service

Michelle Huddleston of Service Learning was unable to attend the meeting. She may be able to attend the December 6th meeting to provide ideas in areas of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, TTU, and the Cookeville community. Charria Campbell discussed the need for the food pantries located in Tech Village and the Library to be restocked. It was noted that the library site was very low in supplies. This site it is open longer hour and readily accessible to students. Last year student volunteers went out with a team leader to shop for items requested for the pantries. Volunteers are needed to help sort and restock shelves, paying close attention to expiration dates, etc.

A link, <https://www.tntech.edu/volunteer/pantry/.php> was shared regarding where to donate and suggestions of donations for the pantry.

Other areas where volunteers may help are:

Habitat Restore: sorting items and restocking shelves

Having a book drive for the area Headstart programs: A few books are still available from last year. A book drive to add to the remaining books was suggested.

Chartwells dining services do have some meals they donate. A microwave as well as a place to eat is available in the Service Center's student lounge on the first floor of the University Center. It provides a comfortable place for students needing a meal to get one free of charge. Students who bring food from home are welcome to use the microwave in the Service Learning area. (There is another microwave available on the ground floor of the University Center in the student lounge opposite the Wich Wich sandwich shop for students who bring items from home to warm up).

Having fresh foods, vegetables and fruits was discussed and how to make these items available with limited storage space. Aldi's and Kroger's were some stores that may be approached about the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables.

MLK Service Week

The Committee discussed having an entire week of service. It was suggested obtaining another I-pad to encourage students to participate in service all week and possibly all month. Publicizing the I-pad give away may be the best way to encourage students, student organizations, Greek Life, and others to become involved. Krystal increase interest, a competition among the service clubs, sororities and fraternities may encourage participation. Simone thought of the statement "If you resolved to be more helpful to people in the new year, here are some suggestions...".

There is a visual art MLK tee shirt design competition going on. November 4th is the unveiling of designs submitted.

Engagement & Social Committees

Krystal suggested several activities to bring the Commission together.

Among them are:

Attitude and Gratitude luncheon that may be attended in person, or digitally.

Family Fun Night

Thursday, Friday nights or Saturday afternoon. Card games such as spades, tonk, hearts, games, kids' games, bowling, etc. An email will be sent out for the Commission to state their preferences.

Black History Month Activities

Activities suggested were:

Daily trivia questions students may answer but have to explain their answer, not just Google Scholar it.

Game Show similar to Jeopardy. Reserve MPR or Johnson Hall Auditorium to set up this game challenge. Three or four gift bags could be used as prizes. Groups (teams) such as NAACP and NSBE as well as others are invited to participate.

Black History Quiz Bowl

Committee members are: Troy Smith, Krystal Akehinmi, Daniel Allen and Arthur Banton. Robert Owens suggested this and stated he had

materials from the previous quiz bowls available. It was suggested to have electronic buzzers and other equipment would make the event more appealing to participants as well as others attending.

Other Such Matters

Homecoming

A question was asked was there anything specifically geared to black alumni for homecoming? Robert Owens stated that in the past those plans were left up to the alumni. The MAAAC (Multicultural Affairs Alumni Advisory Council) will have a meeting throughout the day. MAAAC is also scheduled to meet with President Oldham on November 12th, at 3pm in the President's Conference Room.

RACE TO TECH Friday, November 12th, 2021 9am – 1pm

MAAAC will also be participating in the "RACE TO TECH" event held to network with high school juniors, seniors and families. "Tech students will share their individual experiences about being a Golden Eagle". Participants "will be able to ask questions about their prospective major and gain insight into what it is like to be a Tech student". There are presently 30 students signed up. That number can easily be 60 or more people coming with the addition of parents and family members. MAAAC will provide information on their experiences at TTU and how it helped them to advance to their current careers. Lunch is at 12 noon in the Caf for all. CSB is invited to speak with prospective students and their families. Lunch is covered by Admissions. High School students interested in "RACE TO TECH" may register at: ntech.edu/racetotech.

Enrollment Fall 2021

Dr. Robert Owens stated that enrollment this Fall was the largest enrollment ever. 448 Black students enrolled, and 418 Hispanic students enrolled. To view other enrollment information see the IR site:

https://www.tntech.edu/iar/institutional_research/institutional_dashboards.php

In Honor of Native American Heritage Month, the following events are scheduled:

The Native American History Exhibition

Tuesday, November 2, 2021 T 11am – 1pm Centennial Plaza (inclement weather location Tech Pride Room). See the flyer attached.

First Nations present “Circle of Music”

Wednesday, November 3rd, at 7pm in the Bryan Fine Arts Building Auditorium. All are invited.

Please find the event's calendar listing information

here: <https://www.tntech.edu/calendar/index.php?eID=3963>

Indigenous Communities at the Crossroads: Food, Energy, and Water Issues in the 21st Century

Thursday, November 4th at 6pm. Attendees should preregister for this virtual event at:

<https://tntech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdumggTlvHNPaf130Zp1Zg4rrKxlz65UC>. See flyer attached.

Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Troy Smith. It was seconded by Krystal Akehinmi. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:35pm. The next meeting will be on December 2, 2021, at 2:30pm using the Teams Meet format.