

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
April 5, 2021

Members Present

Margo Dirkson	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Harry Ingle	Simone McKelvey	Robert Owens
Rosemarie Black	Daniel Allen	Holly Mills
Troy Smith		

Members Absent

Daniel Badoe	Nathaniel Colemon	Thomas Heard
Joshua Egwuatu	Katrina Ibezim	Gregory Holt
Qiera Bentley	Nicole Williams	Ted Pelton
Jimmy Jones	Krystal Akehinmi	

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, April 5, 2021 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Margo Dirkson at 3:05pm.

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 minutes from the March 1, 2021 meeting was made by Troy Smith. It was seconded by Holly Mills. The motion carried unanimously.

Proceedings

Spring Scholars' Awards Luncheon Committee Report
Charria Campbell stated that due to previous events in the MPR, the room set up for the Scholars' Awards luncheon may have to be changed on Tuesday morning to fit the design submitted by the committee. Charria and the MA graduate assistant worked on the gift mugs and candy treats. Charria is currently signing the certificates to be awarded to the students. A power point presentation will be used instead of programs. Ms. Johnson will send out a zoom link to those invited, allowing them to join in virtually if they cannot be present. The Step and Repeat photo back drop will be

available. Ms. Johnson has picked up the plaque for the "Outstanding Diversity Advocate". Margo Dirkson and Simone McKelvey will come to help Charria in the MPR by 10:30am.

Dr. Robert Owens stated that Dr. Leo McGee passed on Wednesday (March 31, 2021). Dr. McGee was a great influence in establishing the Black Cultural Center, as well as The Commission on the Status of Blacks. He was the first Black Administrator on the TTU campus, and has mentored many. The funeral is on Tuesday, April 6th. Visitation is at 11am. The funeral begins at 12 noon. President Phillip Oldham and Dr. Robert Owens will be attending the services. Dr. Oldham and Dr. Owens will make a virtual presentation to those attending the Scholars' Awards luncheon congratulating the students.

Summer Socials

Margo suggested that CSB do something over the summer outside the university. She will be putting together some ideas. Suggestions are welcomed. Everyone is welcomed to participate. COVID-19 guidelines will still be followed.

Jonathan Blanchard events are on Tuesday, April 20th. The flyer was sent out with the April 5th agenda. Mr. Blanchard and his band will present a workshop, "The History of Hip Hop", at 3pm in the Wattenberger Auditorium of the Bryan Fine Arts Building. At 6pm, on Centennial Plaza, SGA presents Live on The Plaza, "The Block Party".

Simone McKelvey stated she is willing to help next year if the Commission wanted to pursue another grant.

Elections

Arthur Banton who was Chair-Elect for the 2020-2021 academic year will be Chair 2021-2022. Simone McKelvey volunteered to serve as Chair-Elect. Daniel Allen made the motion to accept Simone as a nominee. Rose Black seconded. Holly Mills made the motion to accept the nomination. Rose Black second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Such Matters

Margo Dirkson stated the CSB annual report was completed and submitted.

Charria Campbell stated Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Admissions virtual edition of the "RACE To Tech Visitation Day" is Thursday, April 15th. Daniel Allen stated that students at the call center notified the incoming students.

Charria Campbell reminded everyone of "The Legacy Gala" which is Saturday, April 10th, 2021. This is a virtual event. Please register and join. There is a giving page. The link for registration is:
<https://oudev.tntech.edu/univadv/cac/events.php>.

Margo Dirkson is planning a May meeting for CSB on May 3rd at 3pm. Arthur Banton, the new chair may be present and the planning of the summer socials will be discussed.

CSB advocated for a Chief Diversity Officer. Dr. Robert Owens is now serving in that capacity.

Words of gratitude were expressed to Margo Dirkson for serving as Chair of The Commission on the Status of Blacks for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The CSB has several openings due to recent members relocating for new jobs. The membership is strongly encouraged to submit recommendations to fill these vacancies. Please email the names and emails of faculty and staff you believe would be willing to serve to Margo Dirkson (mdirkson@tntech.edu).

Simone McKelvey suggested that the historic legacy of those like Dr. Leo McGee and others who came before us at TTU should be publicized.

Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Rose Black. It was seconded by Simone McKelvey. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:46pm. The next meeting will be on May 3, 2021, at 3pm. The meeting will be held through Teams.