

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
November 7, 2022

Members Present

Krystal Akehinmi	Charria Campbell	Joshua Gordon
Daniel Allen	Keisha Claybrooks	Sayota Knight
Arthur Banton	Margo Dirkson	Holly Mills
Rosemarie Black	Edward Driggers	Troy Smith
Wes Bridges	Na'Quaja Gaines	

Members Absent

Gregory Holt	Harry Ingle	Robert Owens
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Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, November 7, 2022. The meeting was called to order by CSB Chair, Krystal Akehinmi at 1:47pm.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Holly Mills. and seconded by Troy Smith.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2022 meeting was made by Holly Mills, and seconded by Troy Smith.

Proceedings

Good News

Daniel Allen shared that his wife, Samantha Allen, would be presenting her dissertation this week. Congratulations to her!

Possibilities for Hybrid Meetings

Most meetings will be held virtually for the convenience of those who cannot leave their office responsibilities or have conflicts with other meetings. Occasionally, there will be in-person meetings with a hybrid option.

Subcommittee Meetings

The membership was divided into four subcommittees and placed in breakout rooms for sharing of ideas, discussion, and planning of upcoming events.

Charria Campbell shared the rundown for Black History Month and MLK events. The Commission was told that Dr. Robert Owens office's main focus is on Diversity and Inclusion. The Office of Multicultural Affairs is listed Student Affairs.

Black History Month

Committee consists of Troy Smith, Daniel Allen, Charria Campbell and Na'Quaja Gaines. (Breakout room 1)

Charria Campbell stated that Anna Nakamoto, GA in Student Engagement/Community Service is communicating with Habitat for Humanity and other Community Organizations for service opportunities possibly on Monday, January 16, 2023.

MLK Week of Service

Committee consists of Holly Mills, Wes Bridges, Sayota Knight, and Charria Campbell.

Events planned are:

Monday - Service opportunity with Habitat for Humanity

Tuesday - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. annual Silent March in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Wednesday – Service project involving donating meals to the Cookeville Rescue Mission. Victor Kline in catering/food services will provide the food. However, a team of volunteers is needed to pack the takeout containers with food and deliver them to the Rescue Mission.

Thursday - Lakeisha Claybrooks and Anna Nakamoto are planning a vigil and open mic event where individuals can talk about Dr. Martin Luther King and what his legacy means to them. Lite hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Friday – Students, and others are encouraged to volunteer to go shopping with designated faculty members to purchase food and other items to restock the TTU Food Pantry.

Social Engagement

Committee consists of Daniel Allen, Margo Dirkson, and Krystal Akehinmi. This group will send out a doodle poll asking the membership for suggestions regarding social events they may be interested in attending.

Awards Luncheon

Committee consists of Margo Dirkson, Charria Campbell, Rose Black, Joshua Gordon, Arthur Banton and Corinne Johnson. In the breakout session Corinne Johnson (recorder of the minutes) shared some information that may be helpful to those planning this event.

The MPR has been reserved for Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 from 8am until 2pm. This allows time to set up for the luncheon. The luncheon begins at 11am. A photo backdrop referred to as a “Step and Repeat” may need to be reserved from the Office of Communications and Marketing for photo opportunities. Minority graduates earning Bachelor, Master’s and PhD degrees are invited and honored at the event. They received a Certificate of Graduation Achievement, and an engraved coffee mug, tee shirt or some other gift. Outstanding student participants in the RACE program received Certificates acknowledging their achievements. The “Outstanding Diversity Advocate” for the year has in the past been honored at this event and presented a plaque. This person is nominated, and voted on by members of the Commission. Dr. Robert Owens, Chief Diversity Officer of TTU, is the best contact regarding this award. The meal last year was well received. Charria Campbell and Margo Dirkson would be good contacts regarding this. Corinne Johnson stated she would try to locate a copy of last year’s menu.

Other Matters

Allen Daniel spoke about an Arts and Crafts event on November 29th that he and Dr. Lisa Zagumny are working on. This event is sponsored by the Provost’s Office as part of their “We Appreciate You” activities. The event

will be from 11am - 2pm in the Tech Pride Room. Students will be able to select among three different crafts projects to make. There will be 11 stations where students can work on their project, with 3 to 4 volunteers at each station to assist.

A Black History month trivia contest is in the making.

The United Voices of Praise student Gospel choir is being revitalized and will return soon.

The Black History Month Soul Food dinner is being planned. Permission from Chartwells has been granted. Charria Campbell stated she is waiting on communications from the caterers of this experience from last year to solidify the details.

Live on the Plaza will have an event soon.

A "Race and Ethics Study Minor" is available. Dr. Banton encourages the promotion of this throughout campus. Having a lecture series about what the minor is about may encourage student interest.

Dr. Krystal Akehinmi tasked the BHM subcommittee with looking into a campus speaker series that might initiate a "Black History All Year" campaign.

Dr. Banton stated that this is the 50th Anniversary of Title 9. Events including in-house campus speaker(s), displays, and advertisements promoting this are being considered.

Charria Campbell thanked all who assisted in the November 4, 2022, "RACE to TECH" activities. Several students and parents showed great interest and stated their decision for the Race To Tech selection.

Adjournment

Krystal Akehinmi asked motion to adjourn the November 7, 2022, meeting. Daniel Allen made the motion, and Holly Mills seconded it. The meeting ended at 2:29pm. The next meeting is Monday, December 5, 2022, at 1:45pm. This will be a virtual meeting.