



Presidential Task Force for Opportunity *and* Equity

Oct. 28, 2021

Minutes

Note: Only the subcommittees met on Oct. 28. There was not a full meeting.

Institute for African American and Black Studies Subcommittee

Chair: Dr. Melody Russell

Members: Katrina Akande, Cori Akins, Molly Boudreaux, Michael Brown, Taffye Clayton, Kevin Coonrod, Norman Godwin, Robin Jaffe, Kimberly Mulligan, Jared Russell, Bruce Smith, Lady Frances Hamilton, Scott Bishop, Gretel Thornton, and Jackson Thomas

Dr. Clayton revealed her slideshow for tomorrow's listening sessions. It is largely similar to the presentation from last subcommittee's meeting. That presentation was recorded verbatim in the Oct. 14 meeting notes and will not be repeated here, except for the following revisions.

Details from each potential funding source were added to the final draft of the listening session. Those details are:

- **NIH**
 - Increasing presence of populations that are nationally underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, and behavioral and social sciences.
- **NSF**
 - Broadening participation/Diversity
- **Lumina Foundation**
 - Racial Justice and Equity
- **Kellogg Foundation**
 - Thriving Children, Working Families and Equitable Communities
- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
 - Health Disparities
 - Social Determinants of Health
- **Andrew Mellon Foundation**
 - Equitable Futures
 - Just Communities
- **Ford Foundation**
 - Social Justice
 - DEI
 - Disability Inclusion

- **Howard Hughes Medical Institute**
 - DEI
 - Increasing racial, ethnic and gender diversity in academic science

Items Requiring Completion/Decision Points slide:

- Finalizing Institute Name
- Finalizing Institute Focus and Ensuring Unique Identity to Attract Donors
- Developing Comprehensive Business Plan
 - Personnel
 - Operating Budget
 - Space
- Developing a Comprehensive List of External Funding Sources
- Incorporating Input and Updating Draft Proposal to Near Final Status
- Developing a Reasonable Timeline for Proposal Submission to Provost

Question Prompts for Discussion are:

- What does it mean to be a member of the Institute? What should members expect of the institute? What should the institute expect of members?
- What are the obstacles to your research? Are there expertise, equipment, or infrastructure deficiencies? Could the Institute address any of these?
- What would you see the research focus of the Institute being? Is there a focus, or foci where Auburn is or should be a leader? Are these interdisciplinary, or would these be strengthened by becoming more interdisciplinary? What's "hot" and fundable and by whom?
- What would you like to see in an administrative structure for the Institute? What are the characteristics that the "leader" should have?

A discussion concerning the sequence of order of the questions was held.

- Sequence will be: 3, 2, 1, and 4.
- A handout with bubbles inserted for the attendees' notes will be available, together with the question, "what haven't we asked that is important to you?"
- A marketing slogan once the institute is approved could be "Full STEAM Ahead!" (STEAM was proposed as a tentative focus-science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics).

Next steps after listening sessions:

- Aggregate the information received from the attendees

Graduate Student Subcommittee

Chairs: George Flowers and Jared Russell

Members: Olasubomi Akintola, Akilah Alwan, Mikayla Brown, Chacolby Burns-Johnson, Angela Cannon, Vinicia Biancardi, Astin Cole, Alexicia Richardson, Sedighe Zamani, Brian Cornish, Dustin Johnson, Bridgett King, Ebony Robinson, Cheryl Seals, Aariyan Tooley, Jordan Branchman and Alan Wilson

1. Reviewed previous meeting notes and recapped next steps.
2. Final planning was discussed for the focus group sessions.
 - a. All elements are currently in place. The emails have been sent out to prospective participants.
 - b. 28 total participants have already signed up. We are hoping for additional participants to sign up during the weekend. A reminder note will be sent out on Friday.
 - c. More volunteers were requested for the focus group facilitators and note keepers. It was noted that the sessions would not be recorded. So, the role of the note keeper is critical.
 - d. The revised questions were distributed and discussed. It was agreed that this would be version used for all of the focus group sessions.
 - e. Once the focus group sessions are completed, the notes will be assembled for review and analysis.