



Presidential Task Force for Opportunity *and* Equity

Nov. 18, 2021

Minutes

Attendees: Cori Akins, Michael Brown, Ron Burgess, Chacolby Burns-Johnson, Astin Cole, Kevin Coonrod, George Flowers, Joffery Gaymon, Bridgett King, Robin Jaffe, Ebony Robinson, Jared Russell, Melody Russell, Cheryl Seals, JoEllen Sefton, Bruce Smith, Alan Wilson, Jennifer Adams and Amy Weaver

- **Quarterly Taskforce Update – Dr. Joffery Gaymon**
 - Dr. Gaymon led the taskforce through a presentation of the status of each of the subcommittees.
 - See the end of the minutes for the presentation slides.
- **Diversity Statement – Gen. Burgess**
 - Gen. Burgess reported that the President’s cabinet thought the diversity statement should not have a land acknowledgment in the same statement.
 - Cori Akins stated that the communication firm’s statement is not specific and it is passive in its language.
 - Chacolby Burns-Johnson stated the task force statement says how diversity, equity and inclusion efforts will be measured and what Auburn will do.
 - Melody Russell suggested that the task force should maybe remove the land statement and use the task force statement?
 - Joffery Gaymon said she will take what was discussed at the this meeting and send around an edited version of the diversity statement.
 - Astin Cole also stated that the communication firm’s recommendation is too passive. He said it doesn’t feel like it is something he can use to feel welcomed, safe and supported at this university. Cole also added for context that the language used in the firm’s statement is already used in many syllabi. Students may not even perceive this as progress.
- **Announced the Dec. 9 meeting is cancelled**
- **Chacolby Burns-Johnson thanked everyone who participated in Black Alumni Weekend.**
 - She said the weekend was very successful.

The subcommittees did not meet on Nov. 18.