



Presidential Task Force for Opportunity *and* Equity

January 20, 2022

Minutes

Attendees: Cori Akins, Jordan Branchman, Chacolby Burns-Johnson, Angela Cannon, Taffye Clayton, Kevin Coonrod, Brian Cornish, George Flowers, Joffery Gaymon, Norman Godwin, Kimberly Mulligan, Alexicia Richardson, Ebony Robinson, Melody Russell, Jared Russell, JoEllen Sefton, Bruce Smith, Amy Weaver, and Alan Wilson

- **Diversity Statement**
 - Dr. Joffery Gaymon reported that the diversity statement was approved and is posted on the website: <https://auburn.edu/equitytaskforce/>
- **Membership list**
 - Dr. Joffery Gaymon reported that the membership list is being updated by removing people who are leaving the university or rolling off the committee.
- **Spring schedule** will remain the same with the task force meeting every other week.
- Announced that **Juneteenth** will be an official university holiday starting in 2022.
 - A revised summer calendar will be available soon.
- Task Force members were encouraged to attend **public forums with Auburn presidential** candidate Chris Roberts.

Institute for African American and Black Studies Subcommittee

Chair: Dr. Melody Russell

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

- Discussed strategy on when to present our institute proposal, since our present administration will soon be transitioning out and another transitioning in.
- How can we best inform the new president of Auburn University about the workings and goals of the Institute Subcommittee? We talked about putting together a white paper to brief the individual and requesting a meeting with the new president and the interim provost.
- Held a discussion on general DEI questions that might be asked at the Open Forum for university presidential candidate Dr. Chris Roberts on Friday morning, January 21.
- We will meet on Thursday afternoon, January 27, with Senior Vice President for Advancement John Morris. He will speak with us about process and viability of our goals.

- We learned that Morehouse College is establishing a Black Men's Research Institute.
https://www.morehouse.edu/academics/centers-and-institutes/black-mens-research-institute/?_ga=2.104665344.181006864.1642716830-975227192.1642716830

Graduate Students Subcommittee

Chairs: Dr. George Flowers and Dr. Jared Russell

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

- Reviewed previous meeting notes and discussed next steps.
- A review was made of the report status to date. This included a discussion of both the focus group results and the qualitative data from the surveys.
- Authors were assigned to review the focus group data and provide a summary of the results and suggested recommendations.
- Authors were assigned to review the survey data and provide a summary of the results and suggested recommendations.
- Authors were also assigned to craft an introductory section that provided an overview of the charge of the committee and the steps taken to accomplish that charge.
- The committee agree to review and discuss the draft sections at its next meeting.