



Presidential Task Force  
*for Opportunity and Equity*

March 17, 2022

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Ronald Burgess, Angela Cannon, Astin Cole, Kevin Coonrod, Brian Cornish, George Flowers, Joffery Gaymon, Dustin Johnson, Ebony Robinson, Melody Russell, Jared Russell, Cheryl Seals, JoEllen Sefton, Bruce Smith, Gretel Thornton, Alan Wilson, Jennifer Adams and Amy Weaver

- **Dr. JoEllen Sefton** – Task force will be addressing the General Faculty meeting on March 29.
- **Graduate Students Subcommittee Presentation**

**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

- We resumed talking about narrowing the focus of the institute. We should take “health disparities,” for example, and be even more narrowly focused on those disparities. For funding purposes, this is important. We really should have the scholars involved at this point to help narrow the focus of the institute.
- We need to find a focus that is beneficial to the university rather than just a college.
- It is difficult for a college to recover indirect costs when funds are going to an institute rather than the college. So, deans may not wish for their college’s professors to be working with the institute.
- Each member is assigned to review and make suggestions on the “Institute Proposal Revised Draft 2” in Box. We will then review the proposal and present it to Task Force members for their review and feedback.
- After we discuss and incorporate the Task Force feedback into the proposal, we will present the proposal to interim Provost Vini Nathan.

## **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 recapped next steps.
- A combined draft report was reviewed and discussed. Edits were suggested for incorporation into the next draft version.