

Minutes

Members Present: Alesia Smith (chair), Jada Ford, Adraine Jackson-Garner, Jerry Knighton, LaToya Maddox, Simeon Mckelvey, Oliver Myers, Harrison Pinckney, Lisa Robinson, Rhondda Thomas, and Kesha Williams

Members Absent: Angie Carter (deputy chair), Bruce Ransom, Kendra Stewart-Tillman and Kellye Whitaker

Intern: Matthew Jordan

Guest: Mary Erin Morrissey and Tessa Byer

Call to Order: Alesia Smith (chair) called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2021:

LaToya made a motion to approve the minutes from November 12, 2021, and it was seconded by Harrison. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Financial Update:

The CBE budget for FY22 is \$6,200 from E&G, \$3,750 of Foundation funds, and \$1,500 for Kwanza vending (\$11,450 total). In July 2021, the CBE spent \$272.69 on a Commissioner's retirement celebration and \$69.90 on a retirement gift. No money was spent since the CBE's November 2021 meeting. Thus, the current remaining budget is still \$11,107.41. There are plans to spend around \$150.00 for award plaques in January 2022.

Committee Reports:

A. Faculty

- i. Faculty Mentoring Program – The Office of the Provost will also be offering a mentoring program for all professors. Wants to make a clear path for associate professors, so they have a clear path to tenure. They will be applying for a grant through Tiger Advance to better educate Black, female associate professors. Harrison brought up a concern regarding the difficulty disparity between Black assistant professors and Black associate professors. He encouraged more research to solidify concerns rather than act based on assumptions.
- ii. Faculty Writing Retreat – Will be partnering with the Commission on Latino Affairs. Wants the retreat to take place somewhere near Asheville, NC shortly after May 2022 graduation. Wants to keep prices below \$500.00 and the CBE expressed interest in financially sponsoring a meal. Will be reaching out to Matthew to create a “save the date” graphic.

B. Staff – No updates.

C. Students – No updates.

D. Alumni – No updates.

E. Community

- i. Cowboy Christmas Fundraiser for Littlejohn Community Center, Dec. 18, 2021 – A graphic was posted on the CBE Instagram to advertise the event. The CBE will be purchasing a table for \$50.00 to better advertise the work of the CBE.
 - ii. Kwanzaa Celebration w/CAAAM- December 26-31, 2021 – The CBE will be wholeheartedly supporting the CAAAM's Kwanzaa events! Matthew will be making a graphic for the CBE Instagram. The Commission is considering using the Kwanzaa budget to purchase boxed lunch for the CAAAM's celebration.
- F. Events and Planning – No updates.
G. Marketing and Communication – No updates.
H. Strategic Plan – No updates.

Old Business:

- A. The Scholarship Reparations Student Leadership Team – Students met with administrators and were told that the university would not support a scholarship for “protected classes.” The student leadership team will be pursuing a loophole. Will be meeting again next week and will reach out to Commissioners soon!
- B. Black Improvement Association (BIA) – BIA is hosting a Black Caucus event in February 2022 and would like for Commissioners to attend to provide support and resources.
- C. Dr. Curtis and Mrs. Eartha White Award of Excellence – Alesia has completed the application to make the award an official university award.

New Business

- A. Associate and Ex-Officio Members – Alesia presented proposed language to amend the constitution and bylaws. The associate and ex-officio members will have no voting power. At any point, there will be no more than five associate members. These members will be able to apply for an opening in the CBE on an annual basis.
- B. History of CBE – Matthew shared his findings regarding the history of the CBE. He is in the process of creating a virtual timeline.
- C. Faculty and Staff Senate Juneteenth Resolution – Staff Senate is working on a resolution to encourage the university to recognize Juneteenth Independence Day as a university holiday. Would be a paid holiday for all university employees.
- D. Group Photo – Group photo will happen in January 2022! There will also be one in-person meeting next semester.

Announcements – Jerry congratulated Alesia for winning the 2021 South Carolina Women of Influence award!!!

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.