

Minutes

Members Present: Alesia Smith (chair), Angie Carter (deputy chair), Jerry Knighton, Simeon Mckelvey Bruce Ransom, Lisa Robinson, Rhondda Thomas, Kendra Stewart-Tillman and Kellye Whitaker

Members Absent: Jada Ford, Adraine Jackson-Garner, LaToya Maddox, Oliver Myers, Harrison Pinckney, and Kesha Williams

Intern: Matthew Jordan

Guest: Mary Erin Morrissey and Tessa Byer

Call to Order: Alesia Smith (chair) called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2021:

The CBE did not vote to approve the minutes.

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. The current remaining budget is \$11,107.41. Award plaques, costing around \$150, were purchased in December 2021 and have yet to arrive.

Committee Reports:

- A. Faculty
 - i. Faculty Writing Retreat – The tentative dates are for May 17-19, 2022. Harrison will bring more updates to the February 2022 CBE meeting.
- B. Staff – Meeting soon to discuss the continuation of the literacy program. Rosa Grayden has been invited to join the committee.
- C. Students – No updates.
- D. Alumni – No updates.
- E. Community – No updates.
- F. Events and Planning – Events will take place in February, March, and April. The February event would provide a historical prospective of events that are meaningful to the Black community (i.e., Juneteenth, Kwanzaa, etc.). The March event is the Regina Thompson lunch and lecture series. The April event would provide an opportunity for CBE constituents to give feedback on the current Black experience at Clemson.
- G. Marketing and Communication – Kesha and Matthew are creating a “meet the commission” highlight on the CBE Instagram account. Headshots will be taken at the upcoming group photo event.
- H. Strategic Plan – The other committees will soon be updated with various aspects of the strategic plan for them to work on. Angie will follow up to ensure that each committee understands how to go about tackling each item.

Old Business:

- A. The Scholarship Reparations Student Leadership Team – Angie, Alesia, Lisa, and LaToya agreed to meet with Matthew to review the recommendations sometime in the near future.
- B. Black Improvement Association (BIA) – The BIA president has requested that members of the CBE attend an upcoming event in February to provide students with support and resources.
- C. Dr. Curtis and Mrs. Eartha White Award of Excellence – The plaques will be coming soon, and the award is being officially approved by the university.
- D. Associate and Ex-Officio Members – Angie made a motion to approve the bylaws changes regarding associate and ex-officio members, and it was seconded by Lisa. The motion passed and the bylaws changes were approved.
- E. Faculty and Staff Senate Juneteenth Resolution – Staff Senate passed the resolution on January 13th. Faculty Senate and the Undergraduate Student Senate will be proposing a similar resolution in the near future. Lisa raised a concern about whether or not this is something that could be done by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) or would need to be done at the state level. Mary Erin and Tessa agreed to find the answers to questions raised.
- F. History of CBE – Matthew is continuing to research the CBE’s history in the Special Collections and Archives. He is hoping to finish before the end of the Spring semester.
- G. Group Photo – Alesia would like to take a group photo before the end of January. She will send an email in the next week to organize Commissioners.

New Business

- A. Discussion on Clemson’s purpose, mission, goals and values – Tessa Byer, Staff Ombuds – Discussion about the “Clemson family” – Tessa expressed a community frustration regarding Clemson’s values and mission. She wants to gather more information to form a recommendation for university leaders. Questions posed included do you think that’s a problem, how do you see that problem playing out, and what do you think could be done about it? Commissioners expressed disappointment in how unclear inclusive efforts are defined and discussed a desire to avoid the phrase “Clemson family.”
- B. CUSG Social Justice Council Letter re: Bias Incidents – Matthew shared a letter written by members of the SJC regarding bias incidents from last semester. Commissioners reviewed the letter and approved it to be sent to the undergraduate student body.
- C. Faculty Open Seat – Alesia has yet to receive additional recommendations for someone to fill the vacant faculty seat. She will be sending a listserv request to see if any faculty members are currently interested in joining the CBE.

Announcements – Clemson Sunrise Rotary is hosting a Cupid 5K Race on February 12th at 8:00 a.m. Funds will be donated to the Littlejohn Community Center.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.