

Minutes

Members Present: Alesia Smith (chair), Angie Carter (deputy chair), Jerry Knighton, Harrison Pinckney, La'Toya Maddox, Simeon Mckelvey, Bruce Ransom, Lisa Robinson, Kendra Stewart-Tillman, Kellye Whitaker and Kesha Williams

Members Absent: Jada Ford, Adraine Jackson-Garner, Oliver Myers, and Rhondda Thomas

Intern: Matthew Jordan

Other: Karon Donald (CUCDI Program Manager)

Guest: Mary Erin Morrissey and Tessa Byer

Call to Order: Alesia Smith (chair) called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from December 10, 2021 and January 14, 2022 Meeting:

Angie made a motion to approve the minutes from December 10, 2021, and it was seconded by Lisa. The motion passed and the minutes were approved. Angie made a motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2021, with a minor edit to the date, and it was seconded by Kellye. 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). The current remaining budget is \$11,107.41. Award plaque replacements, costing around \$200, were purchased in December 2021 and have yet to arrive.

Committee Reports:

- A. Faculty
 - i. Faculty Writing Retreat – The dates are May 17-19, 2022. Trying to determine how many people will attend. Currently deciding how to support faculty who might not have the funds to attend. Bruce recommended that those faculty members request travel funding from their department chair. Also hoping to receive additional funding from the Office of the Provost. Harrison will work with Matthew to create a graphic notifying people of how to prepare to attend.
- B. Staff – Jerry spoke with Vivian Watson-Paul in Human Resources to discuss the literacy program. Will be following up with HR to determine how best to move forward to ensure the literacy program remains an option for employees.
- C. Students – No updates.
- D. Alumni – The Black Alumni Collective started a few years ago and brings together Black alumni from various predominantly white institutions. Kellye will be speaking (virtually) at their conference on March 12, 2022. There will also be an in person conference on April 28-May 1, 2022, at Duke University. Kellye will be sponsoring several students to be able to attend this event to encourage student engagement and future alumni involvement.
- E. Community – No updates.

- F. Events and Planning – Would like to host a luncheon at the Clemson Area African American Museum (CAAAM) on February 25, 2022, to highlight Black history and culturally relevant holidays. Alesia is meeting with Angela Agard, the Executive Director of the CAAAM, to discuss further plans. Additionally, the subcommittee is solidifying dates for the April open forum on the Black experience to engage with constituents. Reaching out to junior faculty to recruit them for the Regina Thompson lunch.
- G. Marketing and Communication – No updates.
- H. Strategic Plan – Matthew divided the Strategic Plan based on subcommittee purview. Angie will be meeting with various Commissioners to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding their initiatives within the Strategic Plan.

Old Business:

- A. The Scholarship Reparations Student Leadership Team – The CUSG senate and GSG senate passed a concurrent resolution expressing support for the scholarship. The student leadership team is now seeking signatures of support through a change.org petition.
- B. Faculty Open Seat – A Google Form has been created and will be shared with faculty members for them to express interest in joining the Commission.
- C. Group Photo – Hoping to schedule the photoshoot within the next week or so.

New Business

- A. CU Council for Diversity and Inclusion Update – The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) confirmed that Black students feel less welcome, valued, and included in comparison to white students. Oliver received a grant and completed research which found that the experiences of Black students was not favorable regarding university opportunities and community development. The Commission on Latino Affairs expressed similar concerns and are experiencing a loss of Latinx employees.

Announcements

- A. Kendra – The Women’s Roundtable and the Men of Color National Summit are taking place in April! Registration typically fills up quick.
- B. Kellye – Searching for more Ph.D. students to work for her.
- C. Alesia – Clemson Sunrise Rotary is hosting a Cupid 5K Race on February 12, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. Funds will be donated to the Littlejohn Community Center.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.