

Minutes

Members Present: Alesia Smith (chair), Angie Carter (deputy chair), Adraine Jackson-Garner, Rosa Grayden, Karleisha Kakraba, Jerry Knighton, True Allah-Liles, LaToya Maddox, Kellye Whitaker, and Curtis White (ex officio)

Members Absent: Oliver Myers, Constancio Nakuma, Bruce Ransom, Kendra Stewart-Tillman, Rhondda Thomas and Kesha Williams,

Other: Karon Donald (CUCDI Program Manager)

Guests: Jeff Anthony, Staff Senate

Chair Alesia Smith called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Jeff Anthony was introduced and welcomed by commissioners. He is a Staff Senator and is attending CBE meetings as a resource for Staff Senate and hopes to serve as a liaison between CBE and Staff Senate.

1. Approval of Minutes: March 22, 2021

Angie made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Kellye. The motion passed and minutes approved.

2. Financial Update – Karon Donald

CBE still has funds remaining for FY21 and will have funds in FY22 for Black History Month, Kwanzaa and other programs. \$6,200 E&G and \$3,500 Foundation. We can apply for vending funds again as we did this past year. We received \$2,500 for Kwanzaa this year. Applications are usually released in May to apply.

Discussion was held about the unused funds and LaToya requested that Karon ask Lee Gill if the unused funds can be carried over to FY22 since we still have funding that was not used due to the pandemic and the virtual environment. Karon agreed to follow up with Lee and copy Alesia on her email.

3. Committee Reports

A. Faculty –No report

B. Staff – Rosa reported that some staff are still being treated unfairly. The staff are being required to come back to work but do not feel safe. Most of the staff she has been working with have exhausted their leave and need to figure out ways to provide alternatives for the staff, i.e. access leave from the leave pool.

There is a plan to schedule a meeting with Vivian Morris to discuss the Computer literacy program for staff.

C. Students – No report

D. Alumni – No report

E. Community – No report

- F. Communication – No report
- G. Programming and Events
- H. Strategic Plan - The strategic plan is 99% completed and Angie will be sending the plan today to Commissioners for their input before submitting the final report.

4. Old Business:

- A. Appoint Commissioner to fill vacancy
 - a. Nominees:
 - i. Shirley Timmons
 - ii. Maya Hislop
 - iii. Ken Robinson
 - iv. Kendra Johnson
 - v. Harrison Pickney
 - b. Alesia did not have an opportunity to contact the faculty nominees and will do so prior to the April meeting.
- B. CBE Spring Open Forum – April 15, 2021- Discussed the correspondence received from DJ Laws, President Clements Executive Assistant. There seemed to be some confusion on the format and set-up. A sub-committee was identified to meet and develop the format and questions for President Clements to address. The committee will compose of Alesia, Bruce, Curtis, Kellye, Rosa, Adraine, Earl and True.
- C. Regina Thompson and Lunch Lecture Series
 - a. The date has been confirmed as March 30, 2021 at 12 noon. Kesha is working with Dr. Jones and an announcement should be going out this week.
- D. Pickens County Law Enforcement Forum w/ICTC
 - a. Rosa Grayden will be the Commission representative for the forum on the March 23, 2021, 12-1:30pm. It will be a virtual meeting.
- E. PSJETF Recommendations- Alesia shared the top three priorities selected by CBE: 1) Increase the recruitment retention and promotion of faculty and staff, as well as retention and recruitment for our students, 2) Fair and equitable policy development and governance and 3) Preservation or identifying a permanent home for the call my name project.
- F. Faculty and Staff Annual Fellowship –The sub-committee did meet to discuss the \$250 award and we will receive a report at our April 26 meeting.
- G. Feminist Friday – Alesia thanked LaToya for participating and representing the CBE at the Feminist Friday event on Gender & Race.
- H. Letter of Support for Men’s Track and Field/Cross Country
- I. The Cemetery Project – Angie, Alesia and Rhondda met to talk about the cemetery project. The Commission is going to work with Rhondda and she is actually going to identify some dates and times for people to meet and discuss the cemetery project and how they can work with the community. The Commission will probably help with some of these conversations because it is important to be visible. The community subcommittee would be a good committee to work on this initiative.

5. New Business

- A. Return to Workplace Petition/ Letter – There was much discussion about the Governor’s Executive Order to return to the workplace. The Staff Senate drafted a letter to send to the University leadership and it was shared with the Commission. Input was provided to be shared with Staff Senate.

- B. Graduate Student Representative – Our graduate student representative, Earl Huff, has class during our meeting time and Karleisha has been attending on his behalf. Alesia proposed that we allow Karleisha to represent the graduate students on behalf of Earl when he is not able to attend. Alesia asked Commissioners if they agreed and all Commissioners present agreed to allow Karleisha to serve in the absence of Earl.
- C. Student Welcome – Rosa proposed that the Commission schedule an event to welcome our students to Clemson in the fall and spring so the students know who we are and the resources available. There was discussion about the welcoming event sponsored by Barbara Hamberg in the past and it was agreed that we need to re-initiate this event. Thus, a sub-committee was identified that comprised of Karleisha, Rosa, True, and Earl. Alesia would participate as time allowed and she would send an email to the Commissioners asking for other volunteers. The committee will make a report at the April meeting.

6. Announcements

- A. Alesia shared with the Commissioners that some of our Commissioners have lost loved ones and we should send a note of condolence to them. She asked for suggestions. It was recommended that we send an e-card to the Commissioners who lost loved ones. Curtis will coordinate creating the cards and send Alesia the information to share with Commissioners.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm.