

## Minutes

**Members Present:** Adraine Jackson-Garner, Alesia Smith (chair), Angie Carter (deputy chair), Bruce Ransom, Jerry Knighton, Kellye Whitaker, Kendra Stewart-Tillman, Kesha Williams, LaToya Maddox, Matthew Jordan, and Oliver Myers

**Members Absent:** Harrison Pinckney, Jada Ford, Rhondda Thomas, and Simeon Mckelvey

**Other:** Karon Donald (CUCDI Program Manager)

**Guest:** Tessa Byer

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

### **Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2021 and October 8, 2021 Meeting:**

Bruce made a motion to approve the minutes from September 10, 2021, and it was seconded by Angie. The motion passed and the minutes were approved. Kendra made a motion to approve the minutes from October 8, 2021, and it was seconded by Jerry. 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 October 2021 meeting. Thus, the current remaining budget is still \$11,107.41.

### **Committee Reports**

- A. Faculty – The Commission on Latino Affairs would like to co-host the Black faculty writing retreat. The retreat would include hiring a facilitator, reserving cabins for two to three days, and bringing interested faculty to focus on writing and building community. Harrison would like to have a recommended site and proposed fees finalized in the next month. He would also like to consider a similar retreat for graduate students.
- B. Staff – Discussed organizing their committee since they currently don't have a chair. They would like to include more members and better engage with Black staff members. Rosa Grayden would like to continue the committee's literacy program. Committee plans on reaching out to Vivian in HR to continue that program, which is in the CBE Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan.
- C. Students – No updates.
- D. Alumni – Meeting with Kendra in the near future to review the CBE Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan. Would like to further engage with Rhondda's work in the Woodland Cemetery.
- E. Community – Reviewed the CBE Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan to determine where their focus should be for the remainder of the year. Plans to disseminate information of Black Clemson history and to advocate for a memorial for Black laborers. Will work with the Call my Name project and the Clemson Area African American Museum (CAAAM). Wants to increase engagement with the local Black community. Will co-sponsor events in the community such as the Littlejohn Community Center's Cowboy Christmas and the CAAAM's Kwanzaa celebration. Adraine provided an overview of the Cowboy Christmas event and Commissioners agreed to purchase a table at the event for \$50.

- F. Events and Planning – Community Care and Virtual Networking event was well-participated in. Plenty of new Black faculty and staff members attended. Bruce won the Dr. Curtis D. White and Mrs. Eartha L. White Award of Excellence for faculty and Rosa Grayden won for staff at the event. The Kwanzaa committee has not been formed yet.
- G. Marketing and Communication – No updates.
- H. Strategic Plan – Angie made everyone aware that the CBE Inclusive Excellence Strategic Plan was in motion. Suggested forming a new committee to address the plan. It would be nice to have the other committee chairs serve as the Strategic Plan committee members. However, anyone is welcome to join. Hoping to have their first meeting before the end of the year.

### **Old Business:**

- I. Bias Incident Reports – Jerry is the chair of the Campus Climate Reporting Team. They meet once a week to address various incidents on campus. The new Vice President of University Relations met with the team to listen to their concerns. Sounded like she was interested in being engaged and visible. The ELT is hosting a student leadership summit on November 16<sup>th</sup> to address bias incidents and social justice efforts on campus.
- J. Let's Talk About It Event – CBSU – The event was a success, but senior leadership was not present. The CBE is hoping to start a conversation about addressing issues on campus with senior leadership.
- K. Commission Vacancies – Received two letters of interest for staff vacancies. There is one faculty appointment on the table. Considering revising the bylaws to create an ex-officio position for the Director of Pan-African Studies. Keshia moved to elect Lisa Robinson to fill the vacant staff position. The motion was seconded by Angie and approved by the Commissioners.

### **New Business**

- L. Curtis and Eartha White Award of Excellence – Alesia will be submitting a formal request for the continuance of the award by the university. Karon will be assisting Alesia in establishing a way for individuals to donate to the award. Matthew will be contacted to design a graphic, so people know how to donate.
- M. The Scholarship Reparations Student Leadership Team – Matthew shared a list of student recommendations to establish a new scholarship for the descendants of Black laborers. While this conversation was discussed privately among the Commission, there was overwhelming support from each Commissioner. Matthew agreed to individually contact Commissioners to receive more personal feedback and suggestions.
- N. Black Improvement Association (BIA) – Alesia expressed interest in inviting the BIA President to our next monthly meeting. The CBE would like to better understand the needs of the BIA and the CBSU.

**Announcements** – No announcements were made.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.