

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS  
March 1, 2021

Members Present

Margo Dirkson	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Harry Ingle	Krystal Akehinmi	Simone McKelvey
Rosemarie Black	Daniel Allen	Holly Mills
Troy Smith	Thomas Heard	

Members Absent

Daniel Badoe	Nathaniel Colemon	Robert Owens
Joshua Egwuatu	Katrina Ibezim	Gregory Holt
Qiera Bentley	Nicole Williams	Ted Pelton
Jimmy Jones		

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, March 1, 2021 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Margo Dirkson at 3:06pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. Krystal Akehinmi made the motion. Holly Mills seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2020 meeting was made by Simone McKelvey. It was seconded by Thomas Heard. The motion carried unanimously.

Proceedings

Spring Scholarship Banquet Committee Report

The committee met in person in February and will meet again on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The banquet will be held in the MPR on April 6, 2021 at 11am (dead Hour). The committee will order "elegant appetizers" from Chartwell for the event. The MPR will be set up honoring the COVID-19 restrictions. There will also be a hybrid option where family members can view the event. Any remaining left-over food from the event will be moved to the BCC to share with students.

### CSB Outstanding Diversity Advocate

On April 6<sup>th</sup> during the Spring Scholarship Banquet the CSB Outstanding Diversity Advocate will be honored. Nominations for this award need to be received by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The nomination form as well as a list of previous award winners were sent in an email preceding the meeting. The nomination forms can be dropped off at the Office of Multicultural Affairs by March 15<sup>th</sup>, to be forwarded to Margo Dirkson.

### Black History Film Event Re-Schedule

Ted Pelton who served on the BHM film committee could not be present at the meeting because of class. He sent an email update regarding the film. CSB is encouraged to spread the word, attend and support this event.

“In continuation of Black History Month activities, you are invited to join the Commission on the Status of Blacks (CSB) at the Back Door Playhouse on the ground floor of Jere Whitson at 6pm on Wednesday, March 3rd for a showing of James Baldwin's "I Am Not Your Negro" and post-film discussion. The post-film discussion will be hosted by Professor Ted Pelton. Masks are required and social distancing will be honored.”

Holly Mills who also serves on the BHM film committee stated that the Library now has a copy of “Harriet” but can only be shown in a classroom environment. “Viewing Rights” have not been purchased.

### Other Such Matters

A new class, “Race and Ethnic Studies” will be taught in Fall 2021 by Arthur Banton. More details will be provided.

Charria Campbell thanked everyone for their support during the MLK and BHM events. She also stated Man – Up and WOW (Women of Worth) student groups are still going strong. CSB is welcome to join in.

Harry Ingle announced the students in Engineering upcoming “Diversity Week” beginning March 22, 2021. The students in NSBE, and others have planned this themselves. Due to COVID-19, many activities are virtual but there are several in person activities scheduled. More information will be available soon.

Troy Smith spoke about an event on March 23<sup>rd</sup> focusing on the 1960s Chicago based "Rainbow Coalition". More information will be shared.

Margo Dirkson states that any flyers the Commission would like to share with group can be sent to Ms. Johnson ([cjohnson@tntech.edu](mailto:cjohnson@tntech.edu)).

Margo Dirkson reminded the Commission that election of CSB Officers is coming up. Arthur Banton is presently Co-Chair and will become Chair in the 2021 – 2022 academic year. Another Co-Chair as well as committee leaders will need to be elected.

### Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Arthur Banton. It was seconded by Krystal Akehinmi. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:37pm. The next meeting will be on April 5, 2021, at 3pm. The meeting will be held through Teams.