

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS

March 6, 2023

Members Present

Krystal Akehinmi
Charria Campbell
Keisha Claybrooks
Daniel Allen

Holly Mills
Harry Ingle
Joshua Gordon
Margo Dirkson

Rosemarie Black
Sayota Knight
Troy Smith
Edward Driggers

Members Absent

Gregory Holt
Wes Bridges

Dr. Polk-Johnson
Na'Quaja Gaines

Robert Owens
Arthur Banton

The meeting was called to order at 1:46pm.

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Daniel Allen. Troy Smith seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Approval of the Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023, meeting was made by Daniel Allen. It was seconded by Holly Mills.

Meeting

Good News

Daniel Allen announced the birth of his daughter, Mallie Claire Allen. Congratulations were extended to the family.

Updating CSB Procedures Committee Report

The committee met briefly. It was discerned that the procedures were updated three years ago. Was there an issue with the current procedures? It was stated that there is a minimum of fifteen members, and to obtain quorum, eight members are needed to vote. Members who are absent are encouraged to send a proxy.

CSB Diversity Advocate Award

CSB members working on updating the "2023 Outstanding Advocate Award" nomination form are Krystal Akehinmi, Troy Smith, Allen Driggers and Arthur Banton. Charria Campbell will also help. Krystal spoke with Robert Owens regarding these changes. The form shall be changed to include "...any community advocate who has demonstrated outstanding initiatives in the advancements of the Commission on The Status of Black's supported communities...." Troy Smith and others support this change. A consensus was that CSB members continue to nominate, and advertise for the award. A copy of the revised nomination form will be included in the CSB files.

50th Anniversary of Hip Hop

The 50th Anniversary of Hip Hop is August 11th, 2023. Arthur Banton was not present to provide an update on this event. This item will be moved to the April 3rd agenda.

No Subcommittee Meetings needed

Subcommittee Reports

Black History Month

Charria Campbell stated BHM went well. Events included:

CSB Trivia Contest and acknowledgements and winners:

Troy Smith thanked Krystal Akehinmi, Arthur Banton, and Allen Driggers who worked with him to supply questions for the contest. He also thanked the kind sponsors for their contributions. Those sponsors included:

290 Barbecue and Jerk	The College of Education
Lamp & Light House/Cumberland	SMASH Martial Arts Studio
Mountain Outdoor/Store	Chartwells
City Girl Soap	TTU Athletics
ZagSwag	

Daily, weekly, and grand prize winners will be announced in both the faculty/staff and student editions of Tech Times on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

BHM Events continued:

Jonathan Blanchard presented a session on the "History of Hip Hop" in the morning followed by the SGA Live on the Plaza "Block Party Concert" in the evening on February 2nd.

Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton spoke on February 7th regarding his wrongful conviction, and exoneration after 30 years of unjust incarceration through the efforts of the Equal Justice Initiative.

Jeff Hobbs speak on "Cherokee Freedmen" with Associate Professor Dr. Troy Smith on February 9th.

Gospel Extravaganza lead by "The United Voices of Praise" was held at the Baptist Collegiate Ministry on February 19th.

BHM "Racing Through Time" - student led exhibition was held on February 21st.

Soul Food Night with the soulful flavors of Memphis Jim and Samella's House was held in the evening of February 21st. TTU students from School of Nursing Dietary and Nutrition helped in serving. The TTU Caribbean Band provided music entertainment

Center Stage presented Ebonie Bell in Derryberry Hall Auditorium on February 22nd.

Paint Night went well with alumni and former V.P. of Student Affairs, Marc Burnett on February 27th.

Scholars Awards Luncheon

The event is scheduled for April 4th, at 11am in the Multipurpose Room. A list of graduating students has been received and they have been contacted. Charria stated there are 40 – 45 mugs available to give as gifts to graduates. Tee shirts will be ordered by the Multicultural Affairs Alumni Advisory Council. The committee will speak to Chartwells, Grade A Catering, and Beverly Johnson of "290 Barbecue and Jerk" regarding the meal.

The commission voted unanimously to budget one thousand dollars to over the total cost of the luncheon.

Social Engagement

Margo Dirkson spoke regarding how well the February social engagement activities went. March engagement activities will be announced after spring break. She reminded the commission that we hope to see everyone in person at the upcoming "Scholars' Awards Luncheon" on Tuesday, April 4th, 11am in the Roaden University Center's Multipurpose Room.

Other Matters

There were none.

Adjournment

The motion to adjourned the meeting was made by Margo Dirkson. It was seconded by Holly Mills. The meeting ended at 2:37pm. The next meeting will be virtual on April 3, 2023, using Microsoft teams.