

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
October 5, 2020

Members Present

Holly Mills	Charria Campbell	Simone McKelvey
Margo Dirkson	Robert Owens	Nathaniel Coleman
Harry Ingle	Nicole Williams	Jimmy Jones
Krystal Akehinmi	Arthur Banton	Rosemarie Black
Joshua Egwauta	Daniel Allen	

Members Absent

Ted Pelton	Troy Smith	Daniel Badoe
Thomas Heard	Katrina Ibezim	Gregory Holt
Qiera Bentley	Daniel Allen	

Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, October 5, 2020 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Margo Dirkson at 3:01pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with corrections. Holly Mills made the motion. Nicole Williams seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2020 was made by Holly Mills. It was seconded by Simone McKelvey. The motion carried unanimously.

Proceedings

New Minority Faculty and Staff Assignments

Margo Dirkson presented a list of newly hired Minority Faculty and Staff and the assigned CSB member who will communicate with them. Nicole noted that several recently hired individuals were not listed. Margo will request an updated list to include all newly hire Minority Faculty and Staff. Margo has mailed a hand-written note to each on the present list, and encourages CSB to welcome and help make their transition here at TTU a more favorable one.

Possible Engagement/Social Activities (COVID-19 Friendly)

One suggestion was to have a “Chat and Chew” monthly virtual meeting where every would bring their own lunch and virtually socialize. The committee thought that was a good idea. Other suggestions are welcomed and may be submitted to Margo.

Other Such Matters

Arthur Banton spoke of the “Eagle’s Flight” program. It was observed that Black Students were not doing as well in the remote learning situation. Dr. Alice Camuti in the College of Business and Graduate Assistant Isabel Badoe are the contacts for this project. Members of the African Student Union are volunteer tutors for the program. Dr. Robert Owens stated that any programs, grants, etc. regarding Minority Students should include the Director of Multicultural Affairs, Charria Campbell, at the table in the planning stages. Charria Campbell possesses a wealth of information and a source of many contacts that can be essential in such programs.

October 22, 2020

Cheya Thousand will present a virtual Wellness event to the RACE, RACE Plus, Man – UP, Women of Worth, and other groups on campus. The virtual event is scheduled in the Derryberry Auditorium at 11am – 12 noon. All are invited to join.

November 13, 2020

“Race to Tech” is an event where incoming freshmen can gather information about TTU, ask questions seek opportunities beneficial to them. The event takes place from 9am – 1pm.

Dr. Harry Ingle of the College of Engineering is working on a program to increase the enrollment and hiring of ethnic minorities and women in the College of Engineering. He will share the information with CSB and invite members to join him.

January 18, 2021

The celebration of the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is Monday, January 18, 2021. CSB members are encouraged to begin submitting ideas of how to honor Dr. King. In the past this was a week of service.

February 2021

Black History Month begins. Planning for MLK Day and Black History month will be placed on the agenda for November.

Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Arthur Banton. It was seconded by Rose Black. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:56pm. The next meeting will be on November 2, 2020 at 3pm. The meeting will be held through Team Meets.