

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF BLACKS
October 4, 2021

Members Present

Margo Dirkson	Charria Campbell	Arthur Banton
Krystal Akehinmi	Simone McKelvey	Robert Owens
Rosemarie Black	Holly Mills	Rufaro Chitiyo
Troy Smith	Edward Driggers	Sayota Knight
Mason Martin	Jamaal Thompson	Daniel Allen
Jimmy Jones		

Members Absent

Harry Ingle	Gregory Holt	Edward Driggers
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Proceedings

The Commission on the Status of Blacks met on Monday, October 4, 2021 using the Teams Meet format. The meeting was called to order by Arthur Banton at 2:33pm.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved. Troy Smith made the motion. Holly Mills seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes was made by Troy Smith. It was seconded by Simone McKelvey. The motion carried unanimously.

Proceedings

Committee Reports

Expectations & Wellness Committee

Rufaro Chitiyo reported that Simone McKelvey shared a document of questions that had been developed to survey minority students on campus. The committee used the questions as a starting point. Ultimately, the committee settled on questions addressing 1. Whether people felt that their workloads aligned with their AORs, 2. Perceptions of equality of workload

across races and genders, 3. Perceptions of safety regarding declining service responsibilities if asked and one is busy, 4. Perceptions of the university's willingness to take action regarding increasing diversity on campus, and 5. People's levels of engagement in activities on and off campus.

Engagement and Social Committee

No report was available.

Committee for MLK Week of Service

Committee members are Sayota Knight, Troy Smith, and Charria Campbell. Michelle Huddleston of Service Learning was unable to attend the meeting. She may be able to attend the November 1st meeting to provide ideas of areas of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, TTU, and the Cookeville community. Charria Campbell discussed the plan for CSB to purchase Tee shirts for those participating in the MLK week of service. Design, cost and distribution of shirt will be discussed later. Daniel Allen will try to get an I-pad to award to the outstanding student participant.

Other Such Matters

Preview Day on Saturday, October 2, 2021

Sayota Knight said it went well. Some parents expressed concern about the lack of diversity on campus, as well as the safety of their student.

Questions were answered and parents were told that TTU is working to improve diversity on campus.

A discussion developed regarding TTU's improvement in diversity. Should CSB be involved to push to hire a more diverse pool of faculty and staff? Does Human Resources advertise through platforms that include more diversity? Are exit interviews done? Perhaps knowledge can be gained knowing why a person chooses to leave. In the survey, questions maybe asked regarding why a person may wander why they may stay at Tech or not.

TTU is trying to keep experiences positive. HR Kevin Vedder has good ideas regarding search committees and training. "Holistic Diversity Training" may be available for those serving as chair of a search committee.

Cheya Thousand Wellness and Self-Care events will begin on Monday, October 4th at 6pm. Reservations are required. Contact Charria Campbell: (cycampbell@tnitech.edu) for more information.

Cheya Thousand presents "Self-Care Strategies in Daily Life" October 5, 2021 at 11am in Derryberry Hall Auditorium. All students, faculty and staff are invited.

First Nations present "Circle of Music" Wednesday, November 3rd, at 7pm in the Bryan Fine Arts Building Auditorium. All are invited.

Please find the event's calendar listing information here: <https://www.tnitech.edu/calendar/index.php?eID=3963>

Adjournment

A motion was made to end the meeting by Simone McKelvey. It was seconded by Holly Mills. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 3:28pm. The next meeting will be on November 1, 2021, at 2:30pm. The meeting may be hybrid. Members will be notified of hybrid or in-person meeting options.