

*Wesley Bishop, Chair
Kim Hunter Reed, Vice Chair
James Ammons
Gerald Boudreaux
Ava Dejoie
Lisa Mims-Devezin
Rodney Ellis
Randal Gaines
Richard Gallot, Jr.
Joseph Bouie
James Henderson
Patrick Jefferson*



*Walter Kimbrough
Mandi Mitchell
Reuben Walker
John Pierre
Edward Price
Larissa Littleton-Steib
Toya Barnes-Teamer
Brianna Thomas
Lurie Thomason
Reynold Verret
Stephanie Willis*

MINUTES

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Advisory Council Grambling State University

February 12, 2019

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Advisory Council met in session at 1:02 p.m., on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, in the Eddie G. Robinson Museum at Grambling State University, Grambling, Louisiana. Senator Wesley Bishop called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called, and a quorum was not established at the beginning of the meeting. A quorum was established later in the meeting.

Present at the meeting were:

Dr. James Ammons
Senator Wesley Bishop
Kellie Taylor White
Dr. Rodney Ellis
Representative Randal Gaines
President Rick Gallot
Dr. James Henderson
Representative Patrick Jefferson
Ms. Mandi Mitchell
Reuben Walker
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib
Dr. Lurie Thomason

Absent from the meeting were:

Senator Gerald Boudreaux
Dr. Lisa Mims-Devezin
Mayor Jeffery Hall
Dr. Walter Kimbrough
Chancellor John Pierre
Senator Edward Price
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer
Ms. Brianna Thomas
Dr. Reynold Verret
Ms. Stephanie Willis

President Rick Gallot and Chair Marty Chabert, Board of Regents (BoR), provided opening comments to the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Senator Wesley Bishop, seconded by Ms. Mandi Mitchell, the HBCU Advisory Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August and November Council meetings.

PRESENTATION OF FINAL HBCU ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed introduced the report and expressed her gratitude to the BoR staff and workgroup for their work. Senator Wesley Bishop expressed gratitude for Governor John Bel Edwards' support for HBCU and informed the Council that the workgroup recommendations could be items for legislation.

ACADEMIC WORKGROUP

Dr. Karen Denby, BoR staff member, gave an update of the work that the Academic Workgroup has completed and presented the workgroup's recommendations. She informed the council of the action taken by BoR in regard to the Boards' dual enrollment policy. Dr. Reed ensured the council that BoR is committed to providing early access to college for the success of our students. Dr. James Ammons, Co-Chair of Academic Workgroup, presented an overview of the Academic Workgroup. He expressed his gratitude to Senator Bishop and Commissioner Reed for their leadership and commitment. He asked that the council take a strong look at additional funds for repair, renovation, and new construction for HBCU campuses.

STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Ms. Carrie Robison, BoR staff member, gave an update of the work that the State and Federal Workgroup completed and presented the workgroup's recommendation. The focus of the workgroup is finding ways to take advantage of the funds, identify where funds are lacking and create partnerships.

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP

Ms. Mandi Mitchell, Co-Chair of the Workforce and Economic Workgroup (WED), gave an update of the work completed by the WED, and presented the workgroup's recommendation. Ms. Mitchell suggested that the HBCUs invite Louisiana Economic Development (LED) Fast Start and Louisiana Workforce Commission to meet with the university advancement staff, administrators, and deans of the colleges so that they can be ingrained into the concept of how HBCUs fit into the long-term health of our state from an economic and workforce standpoint. It is Ms. Mitchell's recommendation to have a long-term relationship with LED and LWC. Ms. Kellie Taylor-White provided brief comments on the importance of HBCUs for the future of our students. Ms. Taylor-White recommends capitalizing and investing in the lifetime relationships and success of HBCU alumni. Dr. Jim Henderson suggested adding another step to ensure that HBCUs have industrial capital, technological capital, and the facilities that are necessary to prepare talent for the future of work.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

President Rick Gallot, Co-Chair of the Public Relations/Outreach Workgroup, presented the workgroup's recommendations to the Council. There will be a HBCU day at the Capitol in mid-April. Senator Bishop volunteered his staff to assist with HBCU day. Pres. Gallot suggested

working with each university's public relations department on messaging and HBCU day events. Representative Randal Gaines suggested that Council add a focus on early childhood, SACS accreditation, and financial stability. A financial recommendation from the Council to the Division of Administration was made to appropriate funds to BoR for a staff liaison to push the agenda of the Council. Rep. Gaines asked that all SACS liaisons be a part of the academic workgroup accreditation work. Ms. Mitchell requested to add the LED playbook to the appendix of the HBCU report and suggested adding a summary of the legislative action items, if any, to the report. Ms. Mitchell stated that LED would provide legislative testimony in support of the request for additional funding.

On the motion of Ms. Mandi Mitchell, seconded by Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, the HBCU Advisory Council voted unanimously to accept the HBCU Advisory Council Report.

OPEN DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

There was no open discussion by the council.

FUTURE MEETING AND NEXT STEPS

A recommendation was made to host the next meeting in New Orleans at Dillard University or Xavier University of Louisiana. The Council will continue to meet 3 times a year. Meetings will alternate between the regions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Santoria Black, Grambling State University Radio Lab Coordinator, suggested that the Council address the issues of ensuring students are ready for college and the workforce through

on campus professional development. Mr. Black put emphasis on dismantling rumors and providing a level of transparency to the community through advertisements and radio broadcasts.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Black Caucus collaborated with the oil and gas industry to host a job fair on April 15th in the rotunda. Ms. Ashley Mitchell-Carter informed the Council of the University of Louisiana System's (ULS) Complete Louisiana Program. The program was designed to recapture students that have started college but did not complete their degrees. Ms. Carter suggested that the Council mimic ULS's program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the HBCU Advisory Council, Senator Wesley Bishop, Chair, asked for a motion for adjournment. On the motion of Ms. Kellie Taylor White, seconded by Ms. Mandi Mitchell, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.