

*Kim Hunter Reed, Chair
James Ammons
Joseph Bouie
Gerald Boudreaux
Preston Castille
Ava Dejoie
Rodney Ellis
Randal Gaines
Richard Gallot, Jr.
Jimmy Harris
James Henderson
Patrick Jefferson
Jason Hughes*



*Walter Kimbrough
Mandi Mitchell
Orlando McMeans
Kelsey Perine
John Pierre
Edward Price
Larissa Littleton-Steib
Toya Barnes-Teamer
Reynold Verret
Arlanda Williams
Stephanie Willis*

MINUTES

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Advisory Council

Via Zoom

November 12, 2020

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Advisory Council met in session at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020 via Zoom. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called and a quorum was established.

<u>Present at the meeting were:</u>	<u>Absent from the meeting were:</u>
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed	Senator Gerald Boudreaux
Dr. James Ammons	Senator Joseph Bouie, Jr.
Preston Castille	Brianna Thomas
Ava Dejoie/Kellie Taylor White	Representative Randal Gaines
Dr. Rick Gallot	Senator Jimmy Harris
Dr. Walter Kimbrough	Representative Patrick Jefferson
Dr. Jim Henderson	
Representative Jason Hughes	
Dr. Orlando McMeans	
Mandi Mitchell	
John Pierre	
Dr. Larissa Littleton-Steib	
Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer	
Arlanda Williams/Dr. Ray Belton	
Stephanie Willis	
Dr. Reynold Verret	
Dr. Rodney Ellis	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On the motion of Rep. Jason Hughes, seconded by Chancellor John Pierre, the HBCU Advisory Council voted unanimously to approve the August Council meeting minutes.

MALE TEACHER INITIATIVE:

Dr. Cade Brumley discussed the importance of recruiting Black male teachers and his concerns about and commitment to increasing their classroom involvement. Currently, 20% of Louisiana K-12 students are Black males, while only 5.3% of the teachers are Black males. Dr. Brumley requested assistance in implementing initiatives to increase the number of Black male teachers, examining the barriers these teachers face, and developing partnerships between K-12 schools and HBCUs.

HORIZON DISCUSSION:

Dr. Walter Kimbrough identified five objectives on which HBCUs can focus with the new administration. The five focuses are (1) maximize the recent media exposure of HBCUs; (2) identify HBCU champions in Congress; (3) continue to collect data on the efficacy of work produced by HBCUs; (4) solidify philanthropic opportunities; and (5) focus on enrollment challenges.

COVID-RELATED UPDATES:

Erasing the Digital Divide

Dr. Katara Williams presented to the Council the process implemented by the Southern University System (SUS) to address the digital divide. SUS began with a task force to evaluate the current situation. After assessment, an initiative was implemented to ensure that all first-year students received a laptop. Students had access to e-books, allowing them to pay a flat fee for books and course materials. For faculty, SUS instituted technology upgrades for online courses

and training. In addition, SUS purchased 2,000 laptops for faculty and students to supplement laptops received from the Board of Regents.

COVID Vaccine Trials

Dr. Verret informed the Council that his decision to participate in vaccine trials was guided by African Americans' need to be involved. Xavier is working to have testing labs to support HBCUs across the region. Xavier has also received funding from the Gates Foundation to provide surveillance testing.

Student Health Ambassadors

Dr. Kimbrough informed the Council of Dillard's Blue Troop Ambassadors. This peer-to-peer program encourages students to take part in COVID safety measures. The group partnered with the Office of Community and Church Relations to collect donations and provide these contributions to students.

COVID Ag Outreach/Mobile Labs

Dr. Orlando McMeans shared information related to the SU Agricultural (Ag) Center's outreach initiatives and mobile labs. The SU Ag Center promotes critical components of COVID safety through fliers, social media, and videos. With its 4-H partnership, the Ag Center developed a youth initiative: Healthy Options that Promote Excellence (HOPE). Through this program, students engage in various healthy living activities assisted by social media. The Ag Center also created "Giving Youth HOPE," a virtual series that ran during June-August 2020, and created a Mobile Educational Technology Lab that took the classroom to the community. The Enhancing Capacity of Louisiana's Small Farms and Businesses Project, a product of the mobile lab, provides technical skills in Food and Farm Safety, Small Business Development,

Sustainable Urban Agriculture, and Master Small Ruminants through its free certification programs. Dr. McMeans also shared future COVID-related programming.

2021 COUNCIL GOALS DISCUSSION:

Dr. Reed presented the four work groups' proposed 2021 Council goals. The academic affairs workgroup proposed five focus areas: (1) Master Plan and Role of HBCUs (Designation); (2) Role, Scope and Mission and Admissions; (3) Program Offerings; (4) Teacher Preparation; and (5) Dual Enrollment and College Credit. After further discussion, the Council added three additional areas: (1) increasing efforts to support the Black Male Teacher Initiative, a partnership with LDOE and Dr. Cade Brumley; (2) expanding K-12 outreach and influence; and (3) strengthening relationships with LCTCS (transfer pipeline).

The state and federal relations work group proposed three focus areas: (1) The role of HBCUs in addressing state, national, and international grand challenges; (2) the long-term sustainability of HBCUs; and (3) developing an HBCU research collaborative. The Council added a focus on cultivating national- and state-level champions.

The workforce and economic development work group proposed two focus areas: (1) LED Higher Education Economic Playbook (for institutions); and (2) LED FastStart Presentation/Updates (HBCUs' roles in LED wins). The workgroup added two additional areas: (1) identifying advocates in business and industry around work-based learning initiatives; and (2) serving to connect hiring practices with focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The communications work group proposed two focus areas: (1) providing an introductory "HBCU 101" session to serve key lawmakers and high school associations; and (2) hosting a

media summit and branding HBCUs. The Council added that the group should provide an HBCU update to the Workforce Investment Council and Industry-Based Certification Council.

LED FASTSTART:

Ms. Mandi Mitchell discussed with the Council LED's work through LED FastStart. LED is committed to assisting HBCUs to strengthen partnerships with business and industry. LED has secured 40 project wins that brought over 9,000 new direct and indirect jobs, generating \$10 million in capital investments. Over the past 11 year, LED FastStart has ranked #1 in the country among state workforce recruitment and retention programs. Through FastStart, LED has enhanced workforce development solutions. Ms. Mitchell highlighted support for HBCU partnerships through FastStart.

POTENTIAL LEGISLATION:

Rep. Jason Hughes offered several proposed amendments to the Council's governing legislation, to be presented to the legislature in Spring 2021. The proposed amendments will increase the Council's membership to include one member from the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, the president of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and a student member serving as student body president of an HBCU. Additionally, the proposed amendment will require the Council to submit an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Education detailing its findings and recommendations on all aspects of its work. Dr. Reed requested that the Council send additional recommendations for amendments to Rep. Hughes by November 30, 2020.

CLOSING REMARKS ~ NEXT STEPS, FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next meeting of the HBCU Advisory Council is scheduled for February 8, 2021. While originally planned to be held at Xavier University of Louisiana, the meeting will likely be held via Zoom due to the ongoing pandemic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the HBCU Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.