

Presidential Task Force for Opportunity and Equity

July 22, 2021

Minutes

Attendees: Olasubomi Akintola, Akilah Alwan, Vinicia Biancardi, Scott Bishop, Mikayla Brown, Ron Burgess, Chacolby Burns-Johnson, Angela Cannon, Taffye Benson Clayton, Royrickers Cook, Kevin Coonrod, Brian Cornish, George Flowers, Joffery Gaymon, Robin Jaffe, Dustin Johnson, Bridgett King, Kimberly Mulligan-Guy, Lastella Paradise, Sedighe Zamani Roodsari, Ebony Robinson, Jared Russell, Melody Russell, Jailin Sanders, Cheryl Seals, Joellen Sefton, Bruce Smith, Rett Waggoner, Alan Wilson, Jennifer Adams, Kim Brown and Amy Weaver

- **Updates – General Burgess**

- New leadership for the Presidential Task Force
 - Dr. Joffery Gaymon and Dr. JoEllen Sefton are the new co-chairs
- New member: Mrs. Scott Bishop, University Outreach
- New Graduate Students: Alexicia Richardson and Sedighe Zamani Roodsari

- **Diversity Statement – Dr. Taffye Clayton**

- Dr. Clayton discussed the diversity statement that the task force subcommittee created and one created by a strategic communications consultant, who is working with the university.
- Clayton said the committee needs to vote on which statement the task force wants to go with and said there are benefits to both statements.
- It was agreed upon that a Qualtrics survey would be sent to committee members with the language from both statements so that they may vote on which statement to recommend to the university.

Equity & Social Justice Center

Chair: Dr. Melody Russell

Members: Katrina Akande, Michael Bennett, Michael Brown, Taffye Clayton, Kevin Coonrod, Robin Jaffe, Kimberly Mulligan, Jared Russell, Jailin Sanders, Joellen Sefton, Kamden Strunk, Giovanna Summerfield & Gretchen VanValkenburg

- Our proposal has been sent to General Burgess.
- It was stated that our focus on the African American/Black institute should remain the focus.
- During the next meeting we will discuss next steps for the Institute Subcommittee.

Graduate Student Subcommittee

Chairs: George Flowers and Jared Russell

Members: Cheryl Seals, Bridgett King, Alan Wilson, Vinicia Biancardi, Astin Cole, Brian Cornish, Dustin Johnson, Bridgett King, Ebony Robinson, Cheryl Seals, Aariyan Tooley and Alan Wilson

- Reviewed minutes and discussions from previous meeting (June 8th, 2021)
- Action Step: Continue to reach out to Student Financial Services to get requested data (see previous meeting notes)
- Action Step: Added 3 questions to survey relevant to student mental health services (accessibility, representation of staff, impact)
- Action Step: Considering adding questions about sense of belonging, community, etc.
- Action Step: Ensure all members have access to document repository
- Discussion: How best to cluster questions around variables such as degree program, demographics, etc.
- Committee submitted suggestions, revisions, etc. for survey. Discussed in meeting
- Discussion: Including (or not) students from AUM who are in joint programs (leaning towards not including students)
- Action Step: Committee will review survey and provide comments
- Action Step: Finalize survey AND pilot with students