

Presidential Task Force for Opportunity and Equity

January 14, 2021

Executive Summary

The Presidential Task Force for Opportunity and Equity met via Zoom on Thursday, Jan. 14. As the group resumes its meetings after a busy fall semester and the winter break, introductions were made for the benefit of several new members. The task force will meet every Thursday during the spring semester. The Tuesday meeting time could be utilized by the two subcommittees, led by Dr. Joffery Gaymon and Dr. Melody Russell. Dr. Gaymon's group is studying the recruitment and retention of Black/underrepresented students, while Dr. Russell's group is tasked with determining the feasibility of an equity and social justice center at Auburn. The entire task force is reviewing options for a diversity statement to reside on the Auburn University homepage.

In subcommittee meetings:

Dr. Russell's group continued to discuss models, visions statements and the like from similar centers/institutes. The debate will help members determine what Auburn's version should be. Soon, the group will have a draft vision statement and goals, as well as a timeline for developing a proposal to the administration.

Dr. Gaymon's group reviewed and discussed the final report from the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee. They set the following goals: 1. Conduct a thorough review of the existing Black/underrepresented student satisfaction data and reach an understanding of its contributing factors; and 2. Recommend strategies that Auburn can employ to improve the satisfaction and outcomes of the Black/underrepresented student experience.