

# **Presidential Task Force for Opportunity and Equity**

**January 21, 2021**

## **Executive Summary**

During the Jan. 21 meeting, it was announced that sales of the Auburn Unity t-shirt generated enough money to award 30 underrepresented students \$1,000 scholarships from the Together We Will Scholarship fund. Each student received an additional \$1,000 in Dining Dollars, a result of matching university funds. A discussion on the plan to create a new diversity statement was held. The university's diversity statement from 2016 will be added to the task force website until an updated statement is completed.

Retention subcommittee: The group plans to host subject matter experts from areas including student assessment, student affairs, Auburn Cares, academic support, OID, financial services and scholarships in order to better address retention at Auburn. Members discussed data related to 2016-19 graduation rates and decided that additional analysis was needed to determine potential trends.

Center/Institute subcommittee: The group continued its discussion on the focus and mission of Auburn's center/institute. Members agreed to move forward with a proposal for an institute, rather than a center. Per university policy, institutes are "very large programs involving a number of departments, colleges and/or schools or external partners," while centers "will always be used for interdisciplinary or interdepartmental programs in a single college or school." The group also decided it was important to determine what research is being conducted across campus related to African Americans as the proposed institute will have a research/academic focus. Some subcommittee members will begin working on a draft of a vision statement.