



9-2012

Meeting Minutes - September 2012

Commission for Blacks

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting September 5, 2012

Call to Order: Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

In Attendance: Camille Hall, Marva Rudolph, Lili'a Neville, Asafa Jalata, Karla McKanders, Keith Kirkland, Phillippa Satterwhite, Stan Bowie, Alecia Davis, Phyllis Moore; Rhonda Campbell

*Absent: Judy McDonald, Alicia Moore, Johnetta Mooreland, Nakesha Roberts, Nanette Rodgers, Richard Stokes, Meshia Thomas, Diamond Rayborn, Maxine Thompson-Davis, Mary Papke, Tyvi Small, Rosie Sasso, Ron Tredway

1. Review & Approval of May Minutes: Review of minutes was pushed back until a quorum was present. After review, the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Report from the Chair: On Thursday, September 6, 2012, the Office of Multicultural Student Life and the UTK-NAACP will host a multicultural reception to welcome faculty, staff, and students.

The CFB has been invited to participate in the planning committee for the 8th Annual Black Issues Conference Planning; this event will take place on February 2, 2013. Dr. Hall encouraged faculty to submit proposals that will increase student interest in research. Dr. Hall stated that advertisement of the request for proposal might increase faculty participation; she requested faculty input. Each year the commission provides financial support for this event.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place on November 3, 2012 at 10 a.m. An invitation has been sent to Chancellor Cheek; the 2012 inductee is Dr. Jane Redmond.

Dr. Hall requested the Community Outreach committee submit dates for the spring community forum. Alicia Moore has relocated to Alabama; she submitted a written on today. Dr. Mooreland is absent from today's meeting. These recent developments will impact the CFB's ability to conduct a fall forum. Dr. Hall recommended the commission consider having one substantive forum in the spring.

Dr. Hall requested themes for 2012-13 newsletter, interviews are scheduled in late October and November; commissioners were also encouraged to submit articles.

4. Committee Reports:

The Access & Diversity Fund Brown Bag Workshop will occur on September 26, 2012, 12-1 p.m. in the University Center, Room 220. Stefani Mundy, Human Resources trainer, will discuss professional development opportunities on campus as well as certification programs. An announcement has been submitted today to the *Tennessee Today* about this event; Phillippa Satterwhite (Committee Chairperson) has advertised the event throughout the summer and she distributed flyers during the meeting and requested CFB members to post them in their respective offices. The event is primarily for staff; however, everyone is

invited.

The Bylaws Committee, represented by Dr. Marva Rudolph, stated that the new, revised bylaws are already posted on the website. The idea was presented that CFB should change the bylaws to compensate for the one community forum meeting. It was decided that a vote would be taken at the appropriate time instead of submitting a revision of the bylaws. It was also noted that Dr. Maxine Thompson-Davis has stated that she would like to be on this committee.

The Community Outreach Committee was not represented at today's meeting, as Johnetta Mooreland was at Austin East High School speaking with high school students about college. Dr. Hall stated that CFB needs to send out letters very early in order to get some investment from various community members. She also presented a complaint/ suggestion from various forum attendees: CFB needs to host the forum at a more centrally located venue.

The Faculty & Staff Concerns Committee was not represented at today's meeting. Dr. Hall spoke for Dr. Maxine Thompson-Davis, stating that Dr. Thompson-Davis had begun to work with Dave Erwin (Facility Services) to get computer access to make sure that everyone has access to technology/ computers. The majority of the Black staff is in housekeeping and food services; if they do not have access to computers, then they do not know what is happening or coming up.

Lili'a Neville has agreed to chair the Publicity Committee, beefing up publicity to keep the community informed, letting them know what is happening with the CFB and on campus.

No specific person was present to represent the Student Concerns Committee. Dr. Hall stated that everyone, including students, has the opportunity to join the commission. The CFB needs an equal representation of students (especially to be within the bylaws). She asked for suggestions. Keith suggested using other student organizations to get information to the student body about different opportunities like CFB. Stan suggested making the graduate assistants of other commissions the student representatives; Dr. Hall said that this option would interfere with the actual investment that students have in making CFB and its initiatives and activities successful. Lili'a suggested (and offered) putting information in the "student Tennessee." Dr. Hall suggested that the faculty of CFB provide some kind of incentive to attract students, such as offering to read/ edit/ evaluate research proposals, theses, etc. and allowing students to use the faculty as a resource in exchange for their involvement with CFB as student commissioners. She also suggested inviting students to attend a meeting, so they can see and understand the processes of the Commission. Stan Bowie asked how the bylaws dealt with the lack of attendance. Dr. Hall agreed that the Commission needed to discuss this, explaining that the membership was changed to a volunteer basis because SGA members would submit information to join the Commission and then not show up to meetings. The idea of including a provision in the bylaws about participation was presented.

5. New Business: CFB approved having one versus two community forums for the

academic year. The motion was made by Phyllis Moore and seconded by Marva Rudolph, with unanimous approval by the commission.

The chair and chair-elect positions are vacant; commissioners will receive an electronic ballot to nominate individuals. Nominations will be closed by 5pm, Monday, September 10. Commissioners will receive a ballot to cast their votes for the chair/chair elect; voting will end on Friday, September 14th.

6. Announcements: Dr. Hall made several announcements. First, she (Dr. Hall) will email the goals of the Commission and send them to the members for review. In the October meeting, she plans to have an update report on the status of Black faculty, staff and students. Upon the completion of the committee assignments the CFB's Blackboard site will be the primary means of communication between the members of each committee. Dr. Hall also mentioned Ron Tredway advised her that the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Dan Berryman will represent HR.

Keith Kirkland announced the Commission for LGBT's OUTstanding seminar as well as presentation of the play, "8," which is derived from the transcript of Prop 8 in California regarding same-sex marriage. The play's tentative date is November 8. He also solicited participants for the play since it is more of a reading than an actual performance. Multiple readings will happen across the nation simultaneously, and he encourages us to come to the one presented on campus.

Dr. Stan Bowie will present an APA-style writing workshop on September 28, 2012, from 5:30-8 p.m.; the fee is \$3, which will benefit the Knoxville Area Homeless Shelter.

Alecia Davis, chair BFSA stated the next BFSA meeting will take place on September 14, 2012, in UC room 220 from 11:45 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Marva Rudolph informed the CFB members that the Council for Diversity and Interculturalism reception that was scheduled for this evening was canceled because too few people RSVP'd. It will be rescheduled soon.

Dr. Hall stated that it is important for the Commission to take an active role in the procurement of scholarship funds for Black students. She mentioned the "50-50" Project headed by development personnel at Top 25 institution as an example of how innovative and easy raising funds could be. Commissioners were asked to submit committee preferences on or before 5pm on Friday, September 7, 2012. The October meeting will allow committees to meet and develop goals for the 2012-13 academic year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48pm.