

**President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

**Meeting of February 4, 2015**

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

Headquarters Building, Executive Conference Room

300 E Street, SW

Washington, DC 20546

*A complete transcript is available*

**Advisors present**

William Harvey, Chairman

Evelynn Hammonds\*

Demetria Henderson

Beverly Wade Hogan

Milton Irvin

Renée Mauborgne

Ronald Mason\*

Helen McAlpine

Valerie Mosley

Willie Pearson, Jr.

John Rice\*

Dianne Boardley-Suber

Beverly Daniel Tatum

Kenneth Tolson

George Walker, Jr.

David Wilson

\*By Phone

**Advisors absent**

Lawrence Bacow

Earl Stafford

Edward Lewis

**White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Staff**

George Cooper, Executive Director

Ivory Toldson, Deputy Director

Ronald Blakely, Associate Director

Elyse Jones, Program Support Specialist

**U.S. Department of Education representatives**

Ted Mitchell, Under Secretary

Jamienne Studley, Deputy Under Secretary

Joel Harrell, Federal Student Aid

Leonard Haynes, III, Senior Director for Institutional Services, Office of Post-Secondary Education

David Johns, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans

Morris Barren, Attorney, Office of the General Counsel

Donald Watson, Director, HBCU Capital Finance

James T. Minor, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education

**Other Federal presenters**

Roosevelt Johnson, Deputy Associate Administrator, NASA

Joeletta Patrick, Office of Minority Focus, NASA

### **Call to Order**

The February 4, 2015, meeting of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) was called to order at 9:04 a.m., by chairman, Dr. William Harvey, who then asked for the roll call. Dr. Harvey asked for the roll call. Dr. George Cooper called the roll and established that a quorum was present, which was subsequently acknowledged by Dr. Harvey.

### **Ethics Training<sup>1</sup>**

Morris Barren, attorney for the U.S. Department of Education's Office of the General Counsel provides annual ethics training for members of the Board. A handout of materials to be covered was provided to each member. Mr. Barren addressed lobbying, political activity, and personal gain.

### **Chairman's Report<sup>2</sup>**

Chairman Harvey presented his Chairman's report, indicating that he would quickly touch on a number of recent activities and then take questions.

First, he acknowledged General Bolden and the entire NASA community for hosting the Board. Dr. Harvey commended Bolden on his service to the country and noted that he is indeed a true role model for young people.

Chairman Harvey then addressed several of his concerns:

1. Board expertise is not used properly. There are members from all segments of the community (i.e., Wall Street, Ivy League, public relations, fundraising, etc.), yet they are not called on to advise on policy matters.
2. Federal support on a downward trend, see the NSF report attached to the Chairman's report.
3. Federal support to only 20 of 105 institutions will be addressed within the next two years.

Next, Chairman Harvey stressed the importance of the White House Initiative being at the table to discuss policy implementation and changes at the beginning of the conversation. He also challenged the Department to make sure that happens.

Dr. Harvey then turned his attention to the College Rating System. He validated Dr. Michael Lomax's Washington Post op-ed in January that stated that the rating system "could hurt disadvantaged students."

Chairman Harvey reiterated as in past meetings that U.S. Department of Education's Secretary Duncan and Ted Mitchell, under secretary have been transparent with information and have invited Hampton University to meeting to learn more about the system.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Ethics training materials are attached.

<sup>2</sup> A copy of the Chairman's prepared report is attached.

Additionally, he stated that the free tuition for public community college initiative would also have a negative impact on many HBCUs. Chairman Harvey commented that dialogue about the initiative should have taken place prior to the announcement.

Dr. Helen McAlpine provided comments on the free tuition initiative. She provided a personal statement of her rise to success and asked if not this initiative, what initiative will bring more students to education? Dr. Harvey thanked her for expressing her viewpoint as a community college president and expressed a desire for the Board to be more involved in the conversations regarding policy prior to announcement.

Mr. Milton Irvin brought up the daunting task of gaining buy-in from the White House for the aspirational goal. He exclaimed that the issue seems to fall on deaf ears. Dr. Harvey explained that every President since Jimmy Carter has instituted the 5% goal, but the Administration has not set that goal, so there are agencies that provide less than 2% which harms HBCUs.

### **White House Initiative on HBCUs Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Cooper began by introducing the Initiative's three student interns and their duties. He then provided a short after action report on the 2014 HBCU Week Conference and stated that the 2015 HBCU Week Conference would be held on 22-23 September in Washington, D.C. immediately following CBC. Dr. Leonard Haynes, senior director for institutional services with the Office of Post-Secondary Education to provide more information on the U.S. Department of Education's First in the World grant program. Dr. Haynes provided the mission, vision and goals of the program along with deadline information and ended with questions regarding the kickoff call, the review panel and competitiveness of the program.

Next, Dr. Cooper explained why the Board meetings are held at federal agencies. He began by reminding the Board that the office is actively seeking ways to increase the amount of federal dollars that awarded in support of HBCUs. He explained that the meetings allow for candid dialogue about why and what can be done to be better supporters of HBCU programs. Dr. Cooper reiterated that the Board was not seeking a hand out for HBCUs, but more opportunities to know what funding is available that HBCUs can participate in. He provided examples of successful meetings in Huntsville and at the National Institute for Standards and Technology that have yielded promising results.

### **2015 HBCU Week Conference<sup>3</sup>**

Mark your calendars for 21-22 September for the HBCU Week Conference and the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the next Board meeting which will follow CBC Week activities.

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<sup>3</sup> 2015 National HBCU Week Conference, **HBCUs: INNOVATORS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS**, September 21-22, 2015 Conference Overview

### **Deputy Director's Report<sup>4</sup>**

Dr. Ivory Toldson provided a statement on the successes of the first cohort of HBCU All Stars, by sharing a video from the 2014 HBCU Week Conference. He spoke of the importance of the program and provided guidance about the future of the program.

Secondly, Dr. Toldson gave an update on the compendium. He provided each member with a draft of the abstracts submitted for consideration. Dr. Toldson reiterated the purpose of the compendium, (1) help other HBCUs learn what others are doing to secure funding from the federal government, (2) provides a published document of federal dollars at work in the HBCU community.

After discussing the compendium, Dr. Toldson provided an update on the HBCU Dashboard, which was in draft during the HBCU Week Conference. The purpose of the dashboard is to provide a document that show where the assets and challenges lie within HBCUs. He explained that a committee has been selected to re- analyze the data and to begin drafting language that supports that data.

Chairman Harvey then acknowledged the presence of Under Secretary, Ted Mitchell and thanked him for taking time to meet with the Board.

### **Under Secretary's Report**

Under Secretary Ted Mitchell began his remarks by re-affirming that he, Secretary Duncan and the Administration "stand together in support of HBCUs and look forward to continuing the work over the coming months and years." Pointing out that the Department is working on a number of projects that will be important to the community:

- 1) James T. Minor, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education is working to make sure HBCUs are engaged and involved in every possible funding opportunity throughout the Department.
  - a. Make sure grant programs recognize the important potential contribution of HBCUs to those grants.
  - b. Ensure there's adequate notice of grant announcements.
  - c. Provide technical assistance to HBCUs to sustain and bolster capacity to complete grant applications.
- 2) Continue to clarify the Title III regulations to ensure schools can spend some portion of earnings of endowment funds on student scholarships.

Mitchell then addressed some items that the Department could use assistance in doing:

- (1) College Rating System
  - a. Jamie Studley works with the institutions in real time and the Department will work with the HBCU community to make sure metrics for access and

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<sup>4</sup> Results of Participation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Federal Programs 2011– [HBCU Annual Report](#)

affordability will be both useful and informative. This will be a transparent process.

- b. System will reflect the different work of many different types of institutions.
  - c. The committee will ensure that the framework does not create a ranking system, but rather shows those institutions that are doing extraordinary work, those doing well and those that need some support.
- (2) Teacher Preparation Regulations
- a. Draft regulations were open for comment in the Federal Register.
  - b. Regulations will not stifle important HBCU contributions in preparation of STEM graduates and teacher preparation.
  - c. Request for continued conversations around strengthen the role of HBCUs in preparing teachers.
- 3) America's College Promise—effort to ensure that universal publicly funded education doesn't end at high school
- a. Proposal still in progress, no current legislation.
  - b. Interest in working with HBCU community to minimize suggested negative impacts on HBCUs and suggested that secure transfer agreements are important to that work.

### **Energy Report**

The Honorable LaDoris Harris, director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, U.S. Department of Energy provided an update on funding to institutions of higher education, specifically HBCUs.

- \$1.6 billion of Energy's \$26 billion budget is awarded to IHEs annually.
- Energy is STEM focused that works through a combination of public/private partnerships with companies like Lockheed Martin and Honeywell.
- Energy among the top supporters of HBCUs:
  - o \$25 million Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium to 13 HBCUs
  - o Over \$10 million in grants to Norfolk State, Clark Atlanta, but there's more to be done.

Energy will be working on:

Database that categorizes expertise and research strengths at each HBCU to begin to look at ways to build additional consortiums that can collaboratively work together. Public/ private partnerships will be the wave of sustainment.

Harris suggests there's a need to have a roundtable of agency leaders that will hold them accountable for what they should be doing in support of HBCUs, most importantly the students at those institutions.

### **NASA Comments**

Roosevelt Johnson, Deputy Associate Administrator for Education at NASA provided brief remarks on behalf of Administrator Bolden and Robert Lightfoot. Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation for the Board's discussion, insight and candor. He mentioned that there would be a

debrief with NASA leadership due to Board's recommendations for increased communication of NASA opportunities; partnership building and contracting opportunities.

Mr. Johnson outlined three immediate areas of engagement with HBCUs that he's interested in undertaking:

- 1) Increase engagement in student opportunities through internship opportunities each year.
- 2) Assist, where possible, in institutional development/capacity building to increase the pool of successful awards to a diverse pool of applicants.
- 3) Identify ways in which faculty can be engaged

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### **STEM PANEL**

#### **Additional Presentations**

Dr. George Cooper read the Presidential Proclamation celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.

Dr. Ivory Toldson provided an update on My Brother's Keeper. A copy of his article, "HBCUs are My Brother's Keeper" was distributed.

#### **Public comment**

Record shows there were no requests for public comment in person or by phone.

#### **Adjournment**

Dr. Tatum thanked everyone for their time and the meeting was adjourned.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.

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William Harvey  
Chairman

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Date



**Chairman's Report**  
**President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs**  
**Dr. William R. Harvey, Chairman**  
**NASA Headquarters**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**February 4, 2015**

I want to begin by thanking General Bolden and the entire NASA community for hosting us today. As I told General Bolden when we met a few months ago, I am enormously proud of his service to NASA. As a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, I take special, personal pride in his accomplishments. And, as a university president, I appreciate the role model he is for so many young people. So, thank you.

These are difficult times for our institutions, our students and their families – even more difficult than when we first began this journey together in 2009.

I have to say that one of my biggest concerns or regrets is that we are not being used as the *advisory* board we are supposed to be. All this expertise - more than 150 years at the helm of HBCUs, decades as the heads of major philanthropic organizations, expertise in business, in fundraising and in public relations, connections on Wall Street, in the Ivy League and everywhere else. *Yet*, we are not consulted when it comes to policy changes and decisions impacting – in a *major way* - the institutions on whose behalf we are to advocate.



It happened with Pell. It happened with Parent Plus. And, now it is happening with the new community college initiative.

Dr. Cooper, as Executive Director of the WHIHBCUs, I hope that you are at the table when these policies are being developed. The members of this Board of Advisors are very, very busy and have many, many commitments. But, we have committed ~~no~~ time and resources to serve on the PBA because we think it is important service, that we can add value and that we can make a difference for HBCUs.

My further hope is that someone will help us have a voice. Put us in the position to advise.

While we don't know a lot, because a lot is not shared, we *do* know that federal support for HBCUs is showing an alarming downward trend. Over the last several years, all of the major Title IV programs had modifications and adjustments which make it much harder for HBCUs to get funding. We all know of the Parent PLUS debacle. These loans to our students are down. Pell grants to students at HBCUs are down. Direct loans to our students are down. Graduate subsidies have been eliminated. In addition to student support, overall support to Black colleges is down.

The National Science Foundation has compiled data on STEM funding provided to HBCUs and MSIs. NSF's December 2014 *InfoBrief* is attached to my Chairman's Report. According to it, "levels of support to minority-serving

academic institutions in FY 2012 varied according to institution type, with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) seeing the largest drop (10%)..... This decrease was the second consecutive annual current-dollar decrease in HBCU funding, resulting in an FY 2012 total that is less than the annual funding in any year since FY 2000.” Let me re-state that. STEM funding to HBCUs is at its lowest point – by far – since 2000!

Also according to NSF, “four federal agencies provided 91% of federal [STEM] support to academic institutions: the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) (58%), the National Science Foundation (NSF) (17%), the Department of Defense (DOD) (12%), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) (4%).” Think about it. There are sixteen federal agencies. Four agencies have provided almost all of the STEM funds that went to HBCUs in 2012 (and that four includes USDA, which administers Congressional funds designated for 1890 land-grant institutions).

Finally, according to NSF, “the top 20 HBCUs ranked by federal [STEM] support accounted for 72% of the academic S&E total for HBCUs in FY 2012”. In other words, the overwhelming majority of all STEM funds going to HBCUs goes to just 20 (of the 105) HBCUs.

I am disappointed and saddened. We need to go visit the other twelve agencies to see what the problem is and how we can help them better engage with HBCUs. Maybe they don’t think anyone cares or is noticing. Maybe they don’t

know the many and diverse capabilities of our HBCUs. Maybe they don't know what other agencies have been able to accomplish and how. Maybe they need our *advice*.

I am committed to spending the remainder of my term as chair trying to get in to see the heads of those twelve agencies. I hope that some of you will join me.

Let me turn your attention to another matter of particular concern to the HBCU community, that is the college rating system. I think Dr. Michael Lomax, UNCF president, summed it up quite eloquently in an op-ed piece that appeared in the Washington Post last month. He said that the proposed system "could hurt disadvantaged students" and "threatens to divert attention from the real challenges facing colleges and universities that educate large numbers of disadvantaged students." Michael's op-ed piece is attached to my Chairman's Report.

Secretary Arne Duncan and Under Secretary Ted Mitchell have been very open and forthcoming about this matter. Dr. Mitchell and I have discussed the proposed rating system on several occasions. As a matter of fact, he has invited representatives from Hampton to receive a briefing so that we might get a better understanding. Before I weigh in publicly, I want a better understanding. I want you to know that I appreciate Secretary Duncan and Under Secretary Mitchell's transparency and full disclosure on the college rating system and hopefully they will be open to constructive input which could result in changes.

Many of my colleagues have called me to say that the “free tuition for public community college” initiative could also be a death knell for many of our institutions. The initiative would cost the federal government roughly \$60 billion over 10 years and require the “buy-in” of the states. The presidents who have called me have said that a better investment might be to increase the amount of funds available for Pell.

You see, this is the kind of dialogue – let’s call it “vetting” – that ought to take place *before* such policies are announced. And, as the President’s Advisory Board, we ought to be a part of that dialogue. (You saw just a few days ago what happened when the White House – apparently without public consultation – announced it was going get rid of the tax break that comes with the 529 College Education Savings Plan. The White House had to abandon that idea “quick, fast and in a hurry,” as they say.) Dr. McAlpine may have a different view or additional insights that may be probative. And I want to hear from her.

Finally, I want to let you know that as I said I would when we first met, I have brought groups of my colleagues together to hear and learn from senior government officials about federal opportunities. (My goal is to help both the agencies and the institutions to meet their goals.)

Last month, for example, six of my colleagues joined me at Hampton to meet with USDA Assistant Secretary, Joe Leonard, and his staff. It was an excellent meeting. Dr. Leonard shared very valuable information. His visit was

much appreciated by my colleagues at Norfolk State, Virginia State, Miles College, Talladega and Virginia Union. I have reached out to arrange similar meetings for groups of HBCU presidents in Ohio and in Alabama.

We have a lot of ground to cover today. So, I will end as I always do, by expressing my appreciation for your service and your support of HBCUs.

I have provided a copy of this report to the recorder and, as I have at each of our previous meetings, I request that the Chairman's Report, including the attachments, be included in its entirety in the transcript of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Harvey  
Chairman

Attachments:

“Federal FY 2012 S&E Obligations to Academic and Nonprofit Institutions: Focus on Minority-Serving Institutions,” by Michael Yamaner, National Science Foundation, National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Publication No. 15-309, December 2014

“A proposed federal college rating system could hurt disadvantaged students,” by Michael L. Lomax, *The Washington Post*, January 2, 2015