President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Meeting of June 13, 2019
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Barnard Auditorium
Washington, DC 20202
A complete transcript is available

Advisors present
Johnny C. Taylor, Jr., Chairman
Aminta H. Breaux
James E. Clark
Phyllis Dawkins
Rodney A. Ellis
Marshall C. Grigsby
Billy Hawkins

Ronald A. Johnson
Nickolas Justice
Harold L. Martin, Sr.
Bernard J. Milano
Connie Rath
Kevin W. Williams

Advisors absent
Jerry Hunter

White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Staff
Johnathan M. Holifield, Executive Director
Sedika Franklin, Designated Federal Official
Arthur P. McMahan, Senior Associate Director

Tammi Fergusson, Intergovernmental Coordinator
Elyse Jones, Management and Program Analyst

U.S. Department of Education
Betsy DeVos, Secretary
Diane Auer Jones, Deputy Under Secretary delegated the duties of the Under Secretary
Don Watson, Executive Director, HBCU Capital Finance Program

White House Speakers
Ja’Ron K. Smith, Deputy Assistant to the President, Office of American Innovation, Executive Office of the President
Scott Turner, Executive Director, White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council
James Redstone, Domestic Policy Council
Benjamin R. Hobbs, Domestic Policy Council
Matt Wilson, Office of Science Technology Policy

Other Federal Presenters
Diann McCants, Senior Scientist and Analyst, Strategic Analysis, Inc., Contractor Support for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research & Engineering) and Co-chair, Interagency Working Group on Inclusion in STEM
Call to Order and Roll Call
The parties met, pursuant to the notice, quorum established 13 of 14 members present.

Welcome Remarks
The following individuals gave welcome remarks:

- Johnny Taylor, Chairman
- Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education
- Johnathan Holifield, Executive Director, White House Initiative on HBCUs

Discussion of the Function and Mission
Johnathan Holifield explained the requirements established under Executive Order 13779 (February 28, 2017) and its governing legislation, Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (P.L. 92-463, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.);

Morris Barren, U.S. Department of Education, Office of the General Counsel, Ethics Division, provided information regarding legal and ethical statues governing PBA member activities.

Federal Presentations
- Johnathan Holifield provided a White House Initiative on HBCUs update
- Administration updates
  - Ja’Ron K. Smith, Deputy Assistant to the President, Office of American Innovation, Executive Office of the President and Scott Turner, Executive Director, White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council discussed how Opportunity Zones can benefit HBCUs and the students and communities they principally serve and how the OAI and WHORC are working with the Initiative.
  - Dr. Diann McCants, Senior Scientist and Analyst, Strategic Analysis, Inc., Contractor Support for the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research & Engineering) and Co-chair, Interagency Working Group on Inclusion in STEM, discussed the North Star report, Charting a Course for Success: America’s Strategy for STEM Education, with emphasis on the role of HBCUs in improving the diversity and quality of nation’s STEM yield and how the Interagency Working Group on Inclusion in STEM is working with the Initiative.
  - Dr. Matt Wilson, Office of Science and Technology Policy, discussed OSTP priorities, with an emphasis on inclusion and competitiveness, and described the project OSTP is planning with the Initiative - Increasing the Competitiveness and Engagement of America’s HBCU Institutions.
- Department of Education updates
  - Diane Jones, Principal Deputy Under Secretary delegated the duties of Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, DoED, discussed HBCU impact in the following areas:
    - Accreditation and Off-Ramp building
    - Religious liberty
"NextGen" myStudentAid mobile app modernization

- Donald E. Watson, Executive Director, U.S. Department of Education, Capital Financing Programs Division, discussed refinancing and loan activities of the HBCU Capital Financing Program, 2017 to present.

Group Discussion

Chairman opened a group dialogue on Presidential Executive Order 13779, the Federal Presentations and other matters, focused on how the PBA can best advise the President and help implement the agenda. A list of 25 potential areas of interest was compiled.

1. Opportunity Zones
   a. Application for Opportunity Zones
   b. Linkage to Opportunity Zones, College Completion and Workforce Development
   c. GPS to navigate agencies and concept around Opportunity Zones
   d. Broader discussion on Opportunity Zones

2. Infrastructure

3. Cybersecurity

4. Accreditation Off Ramp strategies
   a. Careful language around Accreditation

5. STEM

6. Teacher Development and Recruiting

7. Leadership Development and Succession Planning

8. Work Study

9. What Works Well Clearinghouse

10. Research and Tech Transfer

11. Dashboard

12. Ombudsmen at Federal Agencies

13. Title III Increases

14. Strengthening Public Private Partnerships

15. Connecting with Private Business

16. Language around Projects and Programs

17. Enhanced dialogue around agency plans

18. 1890 Land Grants

19. Shared Services

20. Narrative building and the differentiation between HBCUs

21. Dialogue on Consumers of Education

22. Consortium building

23. Convergence of Disciplines

24. HBCU Cap Finance Program

25. Enforcing the Executive Order

Public Comment

Chairman conducted public comment general remarks from:

- Rodriguez Murray, UNCF
- Gerard Robinson, Center for Advancing Opportunity, TMCF
- Leonard Haynes, U.S. Department of Education

Concluding Remarks
Chairman announced next meeting date, September 11, 2019 (during the 2019 National HBCU Week Conference).

**Adjournment**
Chairman Taylor motioned for adjournment at 2:00 p.m. Full commission seconded.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.

[Signature]

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr.
Chairman

[Date] 9/11/19