

President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Meeting of September 20, 2022
Washington Hilton
1901 Connecticut Avenue NW, Georgetown Room
Washington, D.C. 20009
A complete transcript is available

Advisors present

Antoine Allen, Chairman
Glenda Baskin Glover, Vice Chair
Makola M. Abdullah
Javaune Adams- Gaston
Paige Blake
Patrick Cokley
Willie A. Deese
Monica Goldson
Brett J. Hart*

Beverly Wade Hogan*
Shevrin D. Jones
Walter Kimbrough
William F.L. Moses
Christopher E. Paul*
Quinton T. Ross, Jr.
Ruth J. Simmons*
Janeen Uzzell

Advisors absent

Thasunda Brown Duckett
Taraji P. Henson
Lisa P. Jackson

*Virtual participant

White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities Staff

Dietra Trent, Executive Director
Sedika Franklin, Designated Federal Official
Arthur McMahan, Senior Associate Director

U.S. Department of Education

James Kvaal, Under Secretary

White House

Kemba Walden, Principal Deputy National Cyber Director, White House Office of the National Cyber Director
Mitchell Joseph Landrieu, Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, White House Office for Infrastructure Implementation
Keisha Lance Bottoms, Senior Advisor to the President for the Office of Public Engagement, White House Office of Public Engagement

Call to Order and Roll Call

Tony Allen, Chairman of the President's Board of Advisors, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Sedika Franklin, Designated Federal Official, called the roll and established a quorum.

Vote to Approve Minutes from May 2022 Meeting

Chairman Allen entertained a motion for the approval of the minutes from the May 24, 2022, President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs. Mr. Deese motioned for the approval. Dr. Abdullah seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion, there were no abstentions. The minutes were approved.

Welcoming Remarks from Chair

Chairman Allen welcomes everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the following individuals for their participation:

Dr. Anderson from University of Maryland-Eastern Shore; Dr. Loston from St. Philips College; Dr. Ford from Dillard University; Dr. Breaux from Bowie State University; Dr. Harris from American Baptist College; General Williams from Hampton University; and Dr. Leonard Haynes, former executive of the White House Initiative on HBCUs and board member at Virginia State University.

Acknowledged that the members of the Board have been sharing its priorities with key stakeholders and expects updates from the four subcommittees: "Infrastructure as it relates to physical footprint and technology; Research as it relates to the federal government and corporate opportunities; Career Pathing and Financial Resources for Low-Resourced Students; and HBCU Preservation and Growth."

Mr. Chair also acknowledged the work of Dr. Trent and the Initiative in preparation for National HBCU Week Conference and asked for her update to the Board.

Updates from the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity Through HBCUs

Dr. Trent provides a download of the upcoming National HBCU Week Conference.

- Conference Objective: Give our HBCUs an opportunity to meet with our federal agencies, to build those relationships and partnerships.
- Overarching Takeaway: 95 sessions, 25 federal agencies, 126 employers and direct hiring certificate from OPM for career fair ... "trusted relationships and would be able to have more time with folks in our federal agencies who can assist you with programs, with grants, with research, whatever the federally-sponsored program might be."

Dr. Trent explained that her time with the Board will be strategically planned. The intention is to bring value to the Board as it begins to formulate its recommendations to the President; it will include updates direct from the White House "...issues that are high on the President's agenda, and we have great people who are leading them."

Dr. Trent yields floor to Kemba Walden, Principal Deputy National Cyber Director, White House Office of the National Cyber Director.

White House Office of the National Cyber Director

Dr. Walden described what the Office of the National Cyber Director is; how we support the Biden-Harris administration's priorities, and issued a call of action.

The Office of the National Cyber Director

Authorized in January, 2021; the director, Chris Inglis, was nominated and confirmed in June of 2021; Office received appropriations November 2021; First employee started in

December 2021.

NORTH STAR: "...to ensure that everyone is able to safely thrive and prosper in the Internet, in this interconnected society."

- Collective defense Resilience;
- Supporting Biden-Harris Administration's Priorities
- Call to Action

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Mayor Mitch Landrieu

\$1.2 trillion bill, roads, bridges, airports, ports, waterways, high speed internet, clean air, clean water and a clean energy economy.

"...There are 40 programs in this bill totaling about \$15 billion that HBCUs can apply for either directly or in partnership, because throughout this entire bill, there is this idea of equity, which some people seem not to understand in this country."

[Build.gov](#) 375 programs, 125 of them are new.

[Rural.gov](#)

"...HBCUs anchor this country and can help with this urban/rural divide that seemingly exists in this country."

Two ways to get money from the Bill

1. Through formulas that go to the governors.
 - a. 50 percent of this money is sent straight to the States.
 - b. State by state list of all of the money that every state is going to be given, you know, for the next five to seven years over this bill.
 - c. Access to 1.2 trillion, depending on where you live.
 - d. Fed has oversight on how the states are spending the money.
2. Through competitive grants...
 - a. "There are 40 programs, right, that HBCUs are specifically spoken about, not designated at HBCUs but have strong equity allotments in them for about \$15 billion."
 - b. Technical Assistance available within each department.

"The best intellectual capital in this country comes from HBCUs, and there's money in that in partnership with other entities that are actually going to produce these things, to plus up the amount of money that actually gets spent in research and development, in innovation, in technology, especially in the math and science and the STEM area."

Questions/Comments from Members

Mr. Jones: Requested a list of programs that HBCUs should engage on

Dr. Ross: Inquired about technical assistance related to the programming available through BIL

Updates from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Undersecretary

Focus: Tapping the potential of higher education for upward mobility and to create equitable opportunities

HBCU Minded: "...talking about a group of colleges and universities that, at their core, are about racial equity, that in everything they do at every level, they serve that mission."

Budget request includes big increases for Pell, funding for HBCUs

Secretary Cardona has authority as pertains to student loan program.

Continued to address questions/concerns about remaining HEERF funds and recommends compiling any additional questions about HEERF flexibility to be addressed by Department.

Policy Initiatives

1. Student Debt

- a. President announced about a month ago, cancelling up to \$20,000 in student debt for people with outstanding loans.
 - i. Helps all 43 million people with student loans. Approximately half will get their loans completely cancelled. Approximately Two million HBCUs alums will benefit from this initiative.
 - ii. Application process
 1. Approximately 8 million won't need to apply but will have automatic cancellation.
 2. [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to apply: October- November 15th
 3. FAQs: studentaid.gov/debtrelief
 4. Be mindful of potential scammers who are charging; This program is fee-free. Recommendation from Dr. Ross to provide Department link on official campus webpage for students.

Action: Lend your respected voice to talk about why we need student loan programs
- b. President announced a new income-driven repayment plan, so what you pay will be based upon your monthly income.
 - i. If you make less than about \$30,000 as a single person, you will not owe any payments.
 - ii. Above that, on your undergraduate loans, you will owe five percent of your income.
- c. President announced Fresh Start, every borrower in default can move back into good standing; Must contact current loan services to initiate Fresh Start; transfer to a new loan servicer to begin payments

2. Investing in Inclusive Institutions

- a. Annual Budget requests increases in Title III; \$60 B requested but \$5M receive for college completion program
- b. Project Success Program extended for additional 3 years.
- c. Department is tracking state laws (i.e., State of Florida)

Questions from Members

Vice Chair Glover: Is there a program for alum who have gone into default?

Mr. Jones: What messaging do you have for presidents on Inclusivity, especially given new laws that may hinder progress?

Dr. Ross: Are there recommended resources to share information?

Mr. Deese: How can members be supportive of the Administration's policy initiatives?

Dr. Adams-Gaston: What is the Administration doing to gear up for the future?

Chair Allen: Does the Department have a point of view on the availability or flexibility of the HEERF dollars as it relates to infrastructure on our respective campuses?

Group Discussion and Next Steps

Mr. Cokley: How do we engage with students in a meaningful way?

Mr. Jones: How can we provide assistance to HBCUs to apply, implement, manage and close out grants?

Dr. Ross: Form a coalition with small municipalities who may have capacity through larger institutional partnerships; Build capacity through various partnerships; keep in mind the ways to access dollars through federal government.

Ms. Uzzell: Compile factsheets/FAQs to ensure we have the right information to share.

Vice Chair Glover: Develop communications plan for HBCUs to contact alum and others regarding student loan forgiveness.

Dr. Hogan: Explore opportunities that assist with putting cybersecurity programming curriculum in place to ensure students have access to critical career path.

Mr. Deese: Need to understand what the various agencies are and where the money resides; Develop a roadmap to where the money is and how to get it; A Communication/Information-Sharing strategy; Develop a ground game that all HBCUs can adopt

Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Allen provides context for subcommittee reports. “When we think about the presentations we heard this morning, we should be thinking about that in the context of those pillars. When we think about our takeaways, ... we should be thinking about that in that context as well.” The Board owes a report to the President in May 2023, this report will “... put forward some significant policy positions and recommendations to the President that he can move ahead in his administration.”

Four Pillars

- I. Infrastructure as it relates to physical footprint, and Technology.
- II. Research as it relates to the federal government and corporate partner opportunities.
- III. Career Pathways and additional support for students from low resource communities; and
- IV. HBCU Preservation and Growth.

HBCU Preservation and Growth

Committee Members: Dr. Quinton Ross, chair; Senator Shevrin Jones, co-chair; Ms. Janeen Uzzell; Mr. Patrick Cokley; Dr. Walter Kimbrough and Dr. Beverly Wade Hogan.

Two meetings since May 24 Board meeting.

Ms. Uzzell shares committee's process for delivering a value statement.

Reference: [**MAKING OUTSIZED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ENSURING BLACK PROGRESS IN ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION: Report Assessing the Collective Research and Talent Activities of the 15 ABET-accredited HBCU Schools of Engineering.**](#) TEConomy Partners, LLC, June 2022.

Conversations included: (1) identifying a focus specifically on historic buildings, on restoring historic buildings, what some of the low-hanging fruit was in terms of initiative on housing, capability statement for the 102 HBCUs as a starting point of reference for the federal agencies; (2) partnering with an organization to build a database that houses a central repository on what we could learn about each of the schools, what the status of the buildings were on campus, and where we might want to immediately identify and target support; (3) Tying the infrastructure needs to housing and academic facilities, deferred maintenance, accessibility projects on campus, limited funding; (4) Considering funding streams that currently exist as well as others that might be created.

Value Statement:

"We recognize that the existing Capital Finance Program is the most viable federal program to assist HBCUs in making the necessary capital improvements that are essential to the preservation, growth and sustainability of these institutions.

However, many institutions experience significant challenges in loan approval and/or meeting terms of loan repayment. We therefore recommend that a review and assessment of the policies and guidelines pertaining to the lending practices be performed, to determine if a more fair and equitable policy practice, with consideration for all HBCUs, that's small, large and private, even to the extent of two-year colleges, are indicated."

Questions/Comments from Members

Mr. Deese: "... if there are challenges in repaying loans, making the loan payments more affordable is helpful. But considering the gaps, are there ways to just make grants available that don't have to be repaid from the program?"

Dr. Hogan: "... how we could strengthen the historic preservation grants that are -- and through the Department of ... But if they were to review those lending practices and policies and to determine if ... if there are opportunities to make them more equitable in how they are -- how they are awarded."

Mr. Moses: "...any discussion of whether there might be opportunities for program-related investments or social investments by the social investing community to invest in HBCUs? ... Tap into HUD money or some of the infrastructure money."

Dr. Ross gave example: "For example, Alabama State University is in a partnership with the City of Montgomery, the Housing Authority, on a Choice Neighborhoods grant, right? Which comes from the Department of Housing. It works you into technical assistance to go for the larger grant, which would be about \$40 million, particularly when you talk about housing communities that are near HBCUs."

Dr. Goldson: Recommends Infrastructure committee create a "creating a policy statement around

grant funding as it relates to HBCU infrastructure funding.” Noting Mayor Landrieu’s comments that 50% of the funds in the Infrastructure law are allocated through grants that HBCUs would need to figure out how they fit into those grants.

Dr. Goldson: Recommendation for strategic ask “that money is pulled out and set aside specifically for HBCUs, instead of trying to work with municipalities to figure out how we can fit in.”

Dr. Ross recommends to the Board, the statement as previously read. Statement is read a second time. Chairman Allen entertains motion for adoption of the statement by Dr. Ross; Seconded by Mr. Cokley and unanimously adopted.

Career Pathways and Financial Support Committee for Low Resource Students

Committee Members: Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, chair; Mr. Brett Hart, co-chair, Ms. Thasunda Brown Duckett

Three meetings since May 24 Board Meeting

Broadened committee scope “... to include issues of paid internships and other industry placements and programs, including mentorships, career services more broadly and collaboration on certain occasions.”

Committee to focus on: (1) the immediate financial impediments to loan forgiveness and other areas such as loan forgiveness, and (2) then to establish a meaningful connection with the corporate and business world, including opening this to engage with all HBCUs.

“National players need to know that the HBCUs and their community are not only viable, but they are critical to their success, and so making those connections is important.”

Data Points to be collected:

1. what are the total number of HBCU graduates over an extended period of time;
2. what are the job placement rates over an extended period of time;
3. What's the spread between our students and other students in terms of their compensation coming out of school and their compensation five, ten years out?
4. where are students going after they leave the university?

“There is some research that suggests that about 75 or more percent of white students come out of their institutions having had an internship of some type, and that number is somewhere around 30 percent for black and brown students.”

Norfolk State University is requesting support from Commonwealth of Virginia for all students to have an internship.

Questions/Comments from Members

Mr. Cokley: Are we thinking about how we prepare for a modern workplace? For example, Employee Resource Groups (queer, disabled, black, Asian worker)

Mr. Deese: There may be a “significant opportunity to increase the internships for black students at HBCUs with the initiative that's going on for a million jobs in the black community that's been headed by Ken Frazier and some other CEOs, former -- CEOs and former CEOs.”

Mr. Moses: Potential model to consider: California learning aligned educational program where students get 100% paid internships on campus, 75% non-profit and 50 % industry.

Mr. Jones: Some states have internship tax credit programs “that give incentives to businesses who take in student to be interns and then hire them.” Happy to share information on Florida internship tax credit program.

Dr. Ross: Alabama passed legislation for an Office of Minority Affairs, that office will have an internship program for HBCUs. Alabama governor to announce in October, a HBCU Day in Alabama. Initiatives like these garner support for students.

Mr. Cokley: Reminds subcommittee of the Workforce Recruitment Program, which connects young college students with disabilities with opportunities for the federal government.

Research

Committee Members: Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, chair; Lisa Jackson, co-chair; Dr. Ruth Simmons, Mr. William “Bill” Moses

Primary Objective: Enhance the process of universities going from R2 to R1 and bring R3 up to R2.

History on Carnegie Classifications for Doctoral Universities

R1=Very High Research; currently 143 schools in the category

R2= High Research Capacity; currently 149 schools in the category

R3= Doctoral/Professional universities no in R1 or R2

Two points

1. “The university must have more Ph.D. graduates. Not just Ph.D. programs but graduate students and Ph.D.s, and they must increase their expenditures in the S&E areas, the science and engineering areas.”
2. Research must be conducted by graduate students.

There are 11 HBCUs currently classified by Carnegie as R2.

Comment/Questions for context:

Who is working on this now?

American Council on Education, AAU, TMCF, UNCF,

Potential Partnerships: Apple (HBCU Square, Propel Center)

Main areas of focus: social science, humanities, STEM

Next steps: Work with Ted Mitchell at ACE to convene one-on-one meetings with university presidents to determine where they are in the process.

Infrastructure

Committee Members: Dr. Makola Abdullah, chair; Mr. Willie Deese, co-chair; Ms. Monica Goldson; Ms. Paige Blake

Comment/Questions for context:

Conversations held with Rep. Alma Adams and Rep. Bobby Scott to understand the landscape of infrastructure.

What is Infrastructure? It is everything. “...physical infrastructure, but it's also technology, it's research infrastructure, endowments and even the kind of operating expenditures that might ultimately lead to faculty and staff compensation.”

How much support is needed? “A lot” but how do we quantify. Take a look at Tennessee 1890s land grant underfunding and state match study; compare an HBCU and a PWI that are in the same location with similar founding dates and similar enrollments, and you can see what kind, what's needed.

What are the potential funding mechanisms? Take a look at what currently exists but also potential new granting opportunities from infrastructure dollars. Ensure new formulas are fair and equitable and account for unique needs of all HBCUs.

Questions/Comments from Members

Dr. Kimbrough: Encourage doctoral students to conduct this research to provide actionable data that could then be used as a case to present to the state on underfunding and impact; Consider what can be done to ensure private institutions are in the equation.

Chair Allen: Met with Spencer Foundation, who pitched idea of research around infrastructure as a return on investment with respect to HBCUs. Follow Up is low hanging fruit.

Dr. Adams-Gaston: There should be research on the private institutions that the federal government has funded as well. A look at both public and private institutions.

Dr. Glover: Shared Tennessee and Tennessee State University process. University of Tennessee was receiving 3x as much funding at Tennessee State University, approximately \$544M. Findings were presented to the State and Governor worked with Tennessee State University to put \$250 million in the budget last year.

Mr. Cokley: Recommends look into impacts when infrastructure is removed. “So I'm thinking about also for like when the schools stop providing the high schools for their local, like in Denmark, for instance, for Voorhees (phonetic).”

Mr. Cokley: “....Consider examination of Howard v. Gallaudet University. Founded at the same

time, similar ideals, similar marginalization.”

White House Office of Public Engagement, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms

Proud FAMU graduate and mother of a Morehouse Student; familiar with the burden and HBCU experience.

The President calls out Delaware State every opportunity he gets to acknowledge the role Delaware State played in the entirety of his political career.

This administration has invested \$6B into HBCUs to help keep students enrolled, emergency grants and discharging student debt.

\$3.7B through American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief since taking office.

\$1.6 B in debt relief to HBCUs from the Department of Education

\$500M in grants to HBCUs for academic capacity building and fiscal stability.

Pell grant dollars increased.

Reaffirmed that safety is a priority; planning a briefing with FBI and DOJ through the Office of Public Engagement.

Student Debt Relief will be “tremendous relief to families across the country.”

White House hosted Unity Summit.

Office of Public Engagement is “ready to continue to work alongside you and do everything that we possibly can to make sure that our students continue to succeed.”

Members Comments/Questions

Dr. Kimbrough: “What can we do to be helpful and supportive of you, as you do the work on behalf of our institutions?”

Mayor Bottoms: “We don't know what we don't know. So by elevating the needs and concerns of our HBCUs, it helps us to be better responsive. ...But we do know that elections matter, and making sure that our students are paying attention to what this administration has done to make their lives better, and the support that we're giving HBCUs.”

Ms. Blake: “...how is your office directly working with communicating with our current HBCU students.”

Mayor Bottoms: “... we have to get our office outside of the White House...tossed around ideas of a HBCU tour.” Asked for Ms. Blake’s input

Ms. Blake shared immediate polling data on how students like to be engaged:
Social Media especially IG or Twitter, Tik Tok; career fairs and HBCUs visits to interact.

Ms. Uzzell shares common thought about exposure for students and encourages Mayor Bottoms

to tap into members to further discuss messaging and exposure on HBCU campuses.

Public Comment

Karl Cureton, CEO, Council Exchange Board of Trade, CEBOT

Topic: Broadband Infrastructure

- Company represents the 65,000 minority technology companies that exist in the U.S. It's \$100 billion industry with 600,000 employees.

Remarks: NTIA; Upcoming Broadband discussion during HBCU Week Conference; Building pipeline legally

Email available for members

Dr. Ann Marie Sastry, CEO, Amesite, Inc.

Topic: Resources through NAFEO collaboration for online learning

- Artificial intelligence software company; delivering online learning.

Remarks: Partnering with Lezli Baskerville, NAFEO; Mission: To make sure that HBCUs have access to the best quality online learning in the world; Encourages more HBCUs to join the 5 currently on board.

Email available for members

Dr. Randi Hunley, Senior Business Intelligence Analyst, HBCU Project Manager, Deloitte

Topic: HBCU Initiatives

- HBCU Business Accelerator Program with focus on sustainability

Remarks: Free HBCU academy trainings; combination of industry and government; Research is topic of interest; Can be a resource

Email available for members

Concluding Remarks

Chairman Allen closed out the meeting by stating that "...Significant progress has been made with a lot more progress to come."

Motion to adjourn by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Cokley.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22pm.

Tony Allen, Chairman

Date