

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON HISTORICALLY BLACK
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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PRESIDENT'S BOARD OF ADVISORS ON HISTORICALLY
BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

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The President's Board of Advisors met
in the Georgetown Room at the Washington Hilton,
1919 Connecticut Ave N.W., Washington, DC, at
10:00 a.m., Tony Allen, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT

ANTOINE ALLEN, Chairman
GLENDA BASKIN GLOVER, Vice Chair
MAKOLA M. ABDULLAH
JAVAUNE ADAMS-GASTON
PAIGE BLAKE
WILLIE A. DEESE
PATRICK COKLEY
MONICA GOLDSON
BRETT J. HART*
BEVERLY W. HOGAN*
SHEVRIN D. JONES
WALTER M. KIMBROUGH
WILLIAM F. L. MOSES
CHRISTOPHER E. PAUL*
QUINTON T. ROSS, JR.
RUTH J. SIMMONS
JANEEN UZZELL

ALSO PRESENT

SEDIKA FRANKLIN, Designated Federal Official

JAMES KVALL, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of
Education

DIETRA TRENT, Executive Director, White House
Initiative on HBCUs

KEMBA WALDEN, Principal Deputy National Cyber
Director

MITCH LANDRIEU, White House Senior Advisor and
Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator

KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS, Senior Advisor to the
President for Public Engagement

*Participating virtually

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 10:04 a.m.

3 CHAIR ALLEN: Good morning, good
4 morning.

5 VOICES: Good morning.

6 CHAIR ALLEN: Oh, we can do better
7 than that. It's White House HBCU Week. Good
8 morning.

9 VOICES: Good morning.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Welcome to the
11 President's Board of Advisors on Historically
12 Black Colleges and Universities. I'd like to
13 call the meeting to order, and ask Ms. Franklin
14 to do the roll call.

15 MS. FRANKLIN: Good morning. When I
16 call your name, please respond with present or
17 here. Antwon Allen, Chair.

18 CHAIR ALLEN: Present.

19 MS. FRANKLIN: Glenda Baskin Glover,
20 Vice Chair. Glenda Baskin Glover, Vice Chair.
21 Makola Abdullah.

22 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Here.

1 MS. FRANKLIN: Javaune Adams-Gaston.

2 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Here.

3 MS. FRANKLIN: Paige Blake.

4 MEMBER BLAKE: Present.

5 MS. FRANKLIN: Thasunda Brown Duckett.

6 Thasunda Brown Duckett. Patrick Cokley.

7 MEMBER COKLEY: Here.

8 MS. FRANKLIN: Willie Deese.

9 MEMBER DEESE: Here.

10 MS. FRANKLIN: Monica Goldson.

11 MEMBER GOLDSON: Present.

12 MS. FRANKLIN: Brett J. Hart. Brett

13 J. Hart.

14 MEMBER HART: I'm here. I'm on video.

15 Can you hear me?

16 MS. FRANKLIN: We can hear you, thank

17 you.

18 MEMBER HART: Okay great, thank you.

19 MS. FRANKLIN: Taraji P. Henson.

20 Taraji P. Henson. Beverly Wade-Hogan.

21 MEMBER HOGAN: Here, via video.

22 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Dr. Hogan.

1 Lisa Jackson. Lisa Jackson. Shevrin Jones.

2 MEMBER JONES: Here.

3 MS. FRANKLIN: Walter Kimbrough.

4 William Moses.

5 MEMBER MOSES: Here.

6 MS. FRANKLIN: Walter Kimbrough.

7 Christopher E. Paul.

8 MEMBER PAUL: Here, via video.

9 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank Mr. Paul.

10 Quinton T. Ross, Jr.

11 MEMBER ROSS: Present.

12 MS. FRANKLIN: Ruth J. Simmons.

13 Janeen Uzzell.

14 MEMBER UZZELL: Here.

15 MS. FRANKLIN: Ruth J. Simmons.

16 MEMBER SIMMONS: Here.

17 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you, Dr. Simmons.

18 Mr. Chair, I'd like to announce that we do have a
19 quorum, and we can proceed with today's meeting.

20 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Ms. Franklin.

21 You have the minutes from the May 2022 meeting

22 before you. Are there any amendments, deletions

1 or corrections? Is there a motion to approve.

2 MEMBER DEESE: So moved.

3 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Second.

4 CHAIR ALLEN: All in favor?

5 (Chorus of ayes.)

6 CHAIR ALLEN: Any unreadiness?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIR ALLEN: So ordered. First of
9 all, I'd like to thank everybody for joining this
10 most esteemed meeting. We have quite a few
11 esteemed guests with us in addition to our Board.
12 I'd like to recognize a few of them, particularly
13 my colleagues from the HBCU community. When I
14 call your name, I'd like to ask you to stand.
15 Dr. Anderson from University of Maryland-Eastern
16 Shore. Dr. Loston from St. Philips. Newly-
17 minted Dr. Ford from Dillard. Dr. Breaux from
18 Bowie State. Dr. Harris from American Baptist.
19 Newly-minted General Williams from Hampton, and
20 I'd be remiss if I did not mention Dr. Leonard
21 Haynes, the esteemed former executive of the
22 White House Initiative on HBCUs and board member

1 at Virginia State University. Thank you. Had to
2 get that in, didn't you?

3 My remarks will be brief. We've had
4 a good summer. Hope you all have as well. We've
5 been out spreading the word about our primary
6 focus areas. We voted on those last time as you
7 know. You'll hear subcommittee reports on each
8 of those areas. Remember, Infrastructure as it
9 relates to physical footprint and technology;
10 Research as it relates to the federal government
11 and corporate opportunities; Career Pathing and
12 Financial Resources for Low-Resourced Students;
13 and HBCU Preservation and Growth.

14 Each of those subcommittee chairs are
15 here, and will be reporting as follows. You'll
16 also hear an update on the White House HBCU Week.
17 I want to give a lot of credit to Ms. Franklin,
18 who I saw at one o'clock in the morning last
19 night, continuing to plan and her team, as well
20 as Dr. Trainer, who's been doing a good job
21 spreading the HBCU message around the country.
22 With that, I will turn it over to Dr. Trent.

1 DR. TRENT: Good morning everyone.

2 VOICES: Good morning.

3 DR. TRENT: Good morning, everyone.

4 As Tony mentioned, I do just want to give you a
5 brief update on the week to come. I don't know
6 how many of you have been here before. This is
7 my first one, so I am extremely excited about
8 this week. I'm just going to let you know a
9 little bit about what to expect.

10 Next slide, please. The conference is
11 here. The biggest thing about this conference is
12 it gives our HBCUs an opportunity to meet with
13 our federal agencies, to build those
14 relationships and partnerships. So hopefully
15 when you leave, you will have trusted
16 relationships and would be able to have more time
17 with folks in our federal agencies who can assist
18 you with programs, with grants, with research,
19 whatever the federally-sponsored program might
20 be.

21 We really went -- we really looked at
22 some of the needs and some of the areas in which

1 we've had conversations with you about and
2 conversations with other presidents around the
3 country, to determine what we thought would be --
4 would make most sense. And because we really
5 want to make sure that your time here is
6 informative but also is very, very valuable.

7 So I encourage you to take advantage
8 of all of the different sessions that we have,
9 those that are of interest to you as well as your
10 staff.

11 Just to give a little bit of stats,
12 next slide please. So this year, we ended for
13 the first time having to actually turn people
14 away. We are hosting this year over 2,000 in
15 person. We have 1,500 virtual attendees. That
16 was -- we maxed out in our virtual attendees
17 probably about two weeks ago.

18 We have 25 federal agencies that are
19 participating. We are hosting 92 in-person and
20 virtual sessions throughout the week-long event.
21 We have a hybrid career fair with 126 employers,
22 and this is really interesting and exciting. For

1 the first time ever, OPM secured, allowed us to
2 have a certificate for our federal partners. So
3 they can actually interview our students on site
4 and hire them as well. So that's really
5 exciting.

6 We have -- I think at this point we
7 now have 100 percent of our HBCUs represented.
8 We have about 90 presidents that actually
9 registered, and so we are expecting a great,
10 great week. And you know as you all know, that a
11 part of what you're going to have to -- you're
12 doing going forward, is you will make a report to
13 the President.

14 What I wanted to do in terms of the
15 time that I have with this Board is to just bring
16 some information to you from the White House. So
17 I felt that might be valuable to you, as you
18 begin to think about the recommendations that are
19 going to go into your report. These are issues
20 that are high on the President's agenda, and we
21 have great people who are leading them.

22 So I've invited a couple of them. The

1 first one I know is here, and that's Kemba
2 Walden. Kemba is -- she is the National Cyber
3 Director at the White House, principal deputy
4 National Cyber Director at the White House.
5 She's an attorney by trade. She has incredible,
6 incredible experience in cybersecurity and
7 technology security issues, and she is a Hampton
8 graduate. And so with that, I'm going to turn it
9 over to Kemba.

10 MS. WALDEN: If you don't mind, I'm
11 going to stand up. I have a hard time sitting
12 still, but I will use the mic. I'm not sure if
13 this is on, but can you hear me? Most
14 importantly, can those virtually attending hear
15 me? Are those that are virtually attending, are
16 you able to hear me?

17 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: I can hear you.

18 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: I can.

19 MS. WALDEN: Fantastic.

20 MALE PARTICIPANT: Yes.

21 MS. WALDEN: Well thank you Dr. Trent
22 for that warm welcome. I'll try to stay with the

1 mic so those can hear me, but I'm used to pacing
2 around. I'm going to do a few things for you
3 today. I'm going to describe what the Office of
4 the National Cyber Director is. I'm going to
5 describe to you how we support the Biden-Harris
6 administration's priorities, and then the most
7 important thing I'm going to tell you today is
8 give you a call of action. And then after that,
9 I'll be available for questions. So hopefully I
10 won't talk much. I'm primarily going to be in
11 listening mode at that moment in time.

12 I want to acknowledge Chair Tony Allen
13 and Vice Chair Dr. Glenda Glover. I love all of
14 the hyphens behind her name. As a graduate of
15 Hampton University as Dr. Trent mentioned, as the
16 proud graduate of Hampton University, the
17 daughter of two graduates of Fisk University, the
18 granddaughter of a graduate of Bennett College,
19 of North Carolina A&T, of Fisk University and
20 Meharry College, I am excited to address you
21 today.

22 I have a lot going on this week and

1 this is my most exciting day for the week. As
2 you know, HBCUs have shaped the minds of some of
3 our most influential thinkers over the last 200
4 years, evidenced in the White House by me and by
5 others. But I want to describe for you before I
6 get started who the Office of the National Cyber
7 Director is, who works there and what do we do.

8 The Office of National Cyber Director
9 is a new kid on the block. We were authorized in
10 January of 2021. We were the Office of National
11 Cyber Director, the director, Chris Inglis, was
12 nominated and confirmed in June of 2021. He
13 walked into the White House in July of 2021.

14 In November, just as the government
15 works, we were appropriated in November of 2021.
16 Our first employee showed up in December 2021.
17 I'm the 43rd employee; I showed up in June. It
18 is now September. We have been sprinting a
19 marathon over those last several months.

20 In addition to being a principal
21 advisor to the President on all matters
22 cybersecurity, our north star, and this is

1 important for framing so I can explain to our
2 call of action, but our north star really is to
3 ensure that everyone is able to safely thrive and
4 prosper in the Internet, in this interconnected
5 society.

6 That's our number one goal. That is
7 what we're aiming for. You'll notice that
8 security was not in that sentence. Our north
9 star is to make sure that everyone can prosper in
10 our interconnected society. How do we do that?
11 Well security is subordinate to that. People
12 don't prosper without feeling secure. My
13 daughter can't be on the -- I'm not comfortable
14 with her at nine years old being online. My
15 mother is going to do banking but doesn't quite
16 understand MFA, multi-factor authentication.

17 So my job is to make sure that
18 everyone from my daughter to my mother, to her
19 grandparents, to all small businesses, medium
20 businesses, large enterprises, are able to thrive
21 and prosper on the Internet. We do this sort of
22 in three broad strokes. We have to ensure

1 robustness, meaning that we need to ensure
2 collective defense.

3 It should take -- you should be able
4 -- you shouldn't beat any of us without beating
5 all of us, right? So why is the Ukraine
6 successful, other than the fact that they still
7 have a standing government? They're successful
8 against Russian aggression because Microsoft is
9 in the fight, Cisco is in the fight. In his own
10 way Elon Musk is in the fight. The Ukrainians,
11 they have to beat the Ukrainians. NATO is there.
12 It takes all of them, so Russia can't beat any
13 one of them. Collective defense.

14 The second thing that we need
15 therefore is resilience, right? So cybersecurity
16 is a process in risk mitigation. You're never
17 going to get down to zero risk. But with that
18 last bit of residual risk, you need resilience.
19 You need for enterprises to be able to bounce
20 back, to have limited down time, to be able to
21 respond appropriately, and then all of this has
22 to happen in an international context.

1 Cyberspace knows no borders. Cyber
2 criminals, adversaries know no boundaries. So
3 though we are the Office of the National Cyber
4 Director in the United States, we have to work
5 across boundaries. One more frame -- one more
6 framing comment. What is cyberspace? I need to
7 describe what I mean by cyberspace when I talk
8 about cyberspace, because it has a meaning
9 different for every constituent.

10 So what I mean by cyberspace, there's
11 sort of three elements to it, right? The most
12 obvious you know. Your Smartphone, your
13 computers, the technology that you use to connect
14 with the Internet. That's part of cyberspace for
15 sure. But there are two other arguably more
16 important parts of cyberspace, and that is
17 people, right, people and the systems that are
18 operated by people and technology.

19 So think about election systems, for
20 example. That is operated by people and
21 technology, an important part of our democratic
22 society. People are not around cyberspace, under

1 cyberspace, over cyberspace. They are in
2 cyberspace. So that is one of the most important
3 elements of cyberspace. So you've got the
4 technology, you've got the people.

5 The next element, I'm going to use the
6 word "doctrine" as a part of cyberspace. That's
7 just my word of choice for the roles and
8 responsibilities, sort of identifying who's
9 responsible for what, who's accountable for what
10 and how do we defend cyberspace, right?

11 What would an adversary, and that
12 could be the criminal element or nation state,
13 why would they go down to the technology where
14 it's a little bit more complicated, when they can
15 just walk right through the front door, right?
16 So cyberspace involves roles and
17 responsibilities, people who are a part of the
18 systems and then technology, and we need to
19 address vulnerabilities and gaps in each one of
20 those elements in that order.

21 What brings me here today is to talk
22 about the people element. So ONCD contributes to

1 the Biden-Harris agenda, advancing four principle
2 outcomes. So now that I've given you the
3 framework of what is cyberspace, what is our
4 north star, how do we do that, I'm giving you now
5 the four principle outcomes that drive us.

6 One is federal cohesion. Right now
7 you need a Ph.D. in order to be able to work in
8 the government. There are several departments
9 and agencies that have cybersecurity missions.
10 Some are internally focused; many are externally
11 focused. Office of National Cyber Director is
12 there to drive federal cohesion.

13 One of the other pieces is to drive
14 current and future resilience, right?
15 Cybersecurity, as I explained, is an exercise of
16 mitigating risk to cyberspace. You're not going
17 to get to zero risk, but you need to have
18 resilience in order to take care of that, the
19 rest of that residual risk. So we are here to
20 drive current and future resilience.

21 If you buy a car, you have a car that
22 has the air bags and the anti-lock brakes and the

1 seat belt's already installed. Imagine a world
2 where you buy a car, and then you have to go and
3 pick your air bags, pick your seat belts, pick
4 your anti-lock brakes and whatever else goes into
5 a car to make them safe.

6 Cars are safe by design. They are
7 resilient. Humans understand that they need to
8 put on their seat belt, watch the traffic lights,
9 follow the road signs, the stop signs to make for
10 a secure ecosystem when you're driving out there
11 on the highway. So current and future
12 resilience.

13 The third one is public -- enhancing
14 public-private partnerships. This is something
15 more than information-sharing between the public
16 sector and the private sector. We know that the
17 public sector, the government has authorities
18 that the government can't exercise, right? We
19 can arrest people. We can impose sanctions on
20 other countries. We have authorities.

21 But the private sector has -- they own
22 and operate the critical infrastructure that we

1 rely upon. They have signals that outnumber
2 those that the government has. But together, one
3 plus one might equal three. We need that
4 operational professional intimacy in order to be
5 able to make this work -- make cybersecurity --

6 Well Mr. Landrieu just walked in. And
7 then finally, one of my favorite ones thought the
8 least sexy of the ones, of the four outcomes I've
9 described is we're here for performance metrics
10 in a lot of ways. We are here to ensure that our
11 resources align with our aspirations. We have in
12 the government and I know universities are
13 similarly situated, a lot of unfunded mandates.

14 So we are here to ensure that we're
15 able to put budget dollars behind mandates, and
16 this is one way in which we are a force
17 multiplier in the Biden-Harris administration and
18 in their, the priorities that we express. So for
19 example in the bipartisan infrastructure law,
20 we're there to help meaningful budgets for
21 aspirations of advancing broadband across rural
22 communities, urban communities and etcetera, to

1 make sure that cybersecurity is built into that
2 as we expand the surface area.

3 The CHIPS and Science Act is another
4 place where we contribute quite a bit. And then
5 the President's diversity, equity, inclusion and
6 accessibility charge in the 2021 executive order,
7 is another area we are supportive, and we'll talk
8 about that in much more detail in a few moments.
9 But the White House is committed to ensuring that
10 the White House looks like America. We are
11 committed in the same way, but that cyberspace
12 looks like America.

13 Great. So now that I've given you a
14 framing of what I understand cyberspace to be and
15 cybersecurity to be about, and what the Office of
16 National Cyber Director is, you know, we contend
17 in academia to admire a problem, right? Oh, this
18 is interesting. Somebody should do something
19 about that. Well, we are -- that is one of our
20 -- my biggest nightmares is sort of willful
21 ambivalence, right? Wow, that's a problem that
22 you described. Somebody should do something

1 about that.

2 Well, I'm going to describe what ONCD
3 is doing about it, and then I'm going to give you
4 a proposed call of action to see what you can do
5 about it. So in ONCD, we recognized that there
6 are something like 700,000 open cyber and IT
7 positions in the United States. There's even
8 more, if you look at that internationally.

9 These are good-paying jobs. 700,000
10 is a big number. We're filling them, but the
11 denominator keeps growing. There is an
12 insatiable need out there for that space. So
13 what did we do? We hosted a workforce cyber
14 summit. President Williams was there. Dr. Trent
15 was there, and can tell you a little bit more
16 about it in detail if you so choose.

17 But I'm going to give you a quick
18 synopsis. We formed -- we had a summit that
19 addressed those few, the 700,000 jobs; the many.
20 Those are those enabling jobs, the lawyers of the
21 world, the board members of the world that
22 influence what happens in cyber, and then the

1 many, the everyone, right? The kindergarten
2 student through that kindergarten student's
3 grandparent.

4 We had a series of workshops. We had
5 three cabinet secretaries attend. The Secretary
6 for Homeland Security, the Secretary for Labor,
7 the Secretary for Commerce, and Undersecretary
8 Kvall from the Department of Education. They all
9 participated in this conversation. We had senior
10 executives and thought leaders from throughout
11 the United States.

12 We had entities who employ, train and
13 educate cyberprofessionals, and out of that
14 summit came 19 commitments that are identified on
15 the White House website, if you would like to
16 look it up. I wish I could have brought the
17 slick sheet for you, but I didn't. The summit
18 was a success, but it sparked the real work. It
19 was the first step in our call to action.

20 As you know, cybersecurity is a matter
21 of national security. I'm a national security
22 lawyer, at bottom a cybersecurity lawyer, my

1 specialty, but it's all national security. We
2 can't take a monolithic approach to protecting
3 cyberspace. To maintain the security and our
4 competitive edge, we must -- we must cast our net
5 wide, and we have to find a great pool of talent
6 and diversity, intentionally diversifying our
7 approach to securing cyberspace.

8 Cyberspace presents ever-evolving
9 challenges. It's a dynamic space. This is a
10 time where we can offer every American an
11 opportunity to not only enter the cyber
12 workforce, but to contribute to the defense of
13 our country. Our office, ONCD, is drafting a
14 National Workforce Strategy. It is going to be
15 an outgrowth of the National Cybersecurity
16 Strategy that's forthcoming later this fall.
17 That National Cybersecurity Strategy of the
18 National Security Strategy, which is also
19 forthcoming.

20 But you see the trend. National
21 security, national cybersecurity, national
22 workforce. This is a national security issue

1 that requires an intentionally diverse response.
2 So this is what I encourage you to do. In
3 addition to being a part of our conversation in
4 improving our cyber workforce and improving our
5 cyber education, this is what I'm going to ask
6 the Board to take on for action.

7 There are three things. The first is
8 to institute a cyber-focused curriculum for all
9 students, to receive a baseline understanding of
10 cybersecurity regardless of their major, right?
11 So, and this is not a K to 12 conversation, but
12 the same is true there. We teach, right now we
13 teach children, unfortunately, what to do with an
14 active shooter in an active shooter situation.

15 For me growing up, it was what to do
16 in earthquakes or Smokey the Bear with wildfires.
17 I grew up in California. Unfortunately for
18 children, it's active shooter. We need to be
19 able to make cybersecurity a part of their
20 everyday vernacular, no matter what major they
21 have. There are those that implicate cyber,
22 right? I was a Political Science major at

1 Hampton. Cybersecurity wasn't a thing at that
2 time, but I could see how that would have been
3 fruitful.

4 Number two, incorporate cybersecurity
5 courses into adjacent curricula. So I was one of
6 the members of the Cyber Safety Review Board, the
7 CSRB, that reviewed what was known as the Log4j
8 vulnerability that you might have heard of late
9 last year, along with solar winds and other
10 things.

11 One of the things while on that Board
12 that astounded me was that software developers
13 and computer science majors do not have a
14 standard course curriculum in cybersecurity.
15 That's a problem. That's a national security
16 problem. So my second charge to you is to
17 incorporate cybersecurity in those adjacent
18 curricula, computer science, software
19 development.

20 Then the third, a little bit more
21 practical, which is to create additional skill-
22 based programs to support apprenticeships,

1 internships and hands-on training for students
2 aiming to land their first job in cyber, right?
3 So we need to develop a curriculum for all. Even
4 Music majors have something to contribute in
5 cyberspace.

6 Did you know that Music majors, their
7 first -- our first, our first cadre of women that
8 started working on decrypting messages during
9 World War I and World War II, a lot of them were
10 musicians.

11 Why? Because they understand
12 patterns, right? So just think about cyber
13 touches every discipline. So cybersecurity
14 should be a part of all curricula, the many.
15 Make sure that you incorporate cybersecurity into
16 those adjacent curricula, computer science,
17 software development, whatever that is.

18 And then for the few, create
19 additional skill-based programs to support
20 apprenticeships and hands-on training. So that's
21 my call of action to you. Any solution to this
22 shortage of cyber talent in our economy must be

1 inclusive of historically untapped talent. You
2 all are raising our digitally native students,
3 right? Paige is a digitally native student. I
4 am not. I graduated from Hampton in '94. Paige
5 is graduating at a much, much better time for
6 this.

7 But it has to be included, inclusive
8 of historically untapped talent. It's not only a
9 moral imperative, but also a strategic force
10 multiplier ensuring we have our best and
11 brightest on the front lines of our nation's
12 defense. These are high-paying jobs at the end
13 of the day. 20 percent of all black graduates
14 come out of HBCUs.

15 So Biden-Harris administration is
16 really counting on you. 25 percent of those are
17 blacks who earn STEM degrees out of HBCUs.
18 Alongside with the President, my office looks
19 forward to working with you, with your colleges
20 and universities in this pursuit. With that, I
21 don't know, Dr. Trent, if I have time to be able
22 to take questions. This is my favorite part.

1 DR. TRENT: You definitely have time
2 to take questions. Thank you, Kemba. That was
3 really enlightening.

4 MS. WALDEN: Thank you.

5 DR. TRENT: One of the reasons why I
6 wanted to make sure you spoke to this group was I
7 knew that you would be able to lay out what is
8 obviously a -- well not obviously, obviously for
9 me a complicated topic and just really make it
10 real and, as you talked about the national
11 security, from a national security perspective as
12 well as a workforce perspective. I can see that
13 our HBCUs will have a huge role in, or could have
14 a huge role in what the President is doing at the
15 national level. So I appreciate that. But at
16 this point we will take questions, and then we're
17 going to also invite the Mayor up to the table.

18 CHAIR ALLEN: Questions from the
19 Committee? Yes.

20 MEMBER COKLEY: To awkwardly look at
21 you. Kemba, thank you so much for joining us
22 this morning. My name is Patrick Cokley. Quick

1 question for you. You talked about the unique
2 need for partnership with marginalized
3 communities, especially as it relates to cyber,
4 and there is a proud tradition also of the
5 disability community also being, sort of working
6 on the back end.

7 And yet at the same time,
8 accessibility often tends to be sort of a marker
9 of what people might suggest as less secure. So
10 I was hoping you could say a little bit about how
11 your office is partnering with, you know, like
12 the Office of Disability Employment Policy or Day
13 Al-Mohamed on the Domestic Policy Council, to
14 ensure that individuals with disabilities have an
15 opportunity to be thought of in those
16 marginalized populations you're thinking of, and
17 as you're building systems that will continue to
18 be inclusive of black, brown, Latino, disabled.

19 MS. WALDEN: Absolutely. So we work,
20 we work intimately with the Domestic Policy
21 Council, and are able to identify our priorities
22 in the cybersecurity space for the Domestic

1 Policy Council, and particularly in
2 accessibility. As you may be aware,
3 neurodivergent -- neurodiversity in our
4 profession is important. It is actually key.

5 I know that in my practice as a
6 national security lawyer, both in the government
7 and at Microsoft, they were -- we were, we were
8 focused on neurodiversity in particular, right,
9 in order to be able to enhance what we're able to
10 contribute to our national defense. But
11 accessibility does not necessarily erode
12 security; we need both.

13 So for example, in our election
14 security space, there was a focus after Gore v.
15 Bush for accessibility, right? Accessibility,
16 ease and etcetera, is that there wasn't really a
17 focus on integrating accessibility with security.
18 One doesn't degrade the other. It just means we
19 need to be more innovative, and finding
20 opportunities to bring those two communities
21 together causes us to be more innovative in our
22 pursuit of security, while also maintaining

1 accessibility. I don't know if I answered your
2 question.

3 MEMBER COKLEY: It's a good start.
4 Thank you so much.

5 MS. WALDEN: I'm welcome to having the
6 conversation more after today.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: Any more questions from
8 the table.

9 MS. WALDEN: Excellent.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: One more question, yes.

11 MEMBER UZZELL: Hi there, good
12 morning. My name is Janeen Uzzell, graduate of
13 A&T in the School of Engineering and CEO for the
14 National Society of Black Engineers, and I wanted
15 to get your thoughts around the cyber track that
16 we're considering for our membership and
17 specifically at our convention.

18 You talked specifically about the
19 opportunity for work and the denominator
20 continuing to grow. Do you have any thoughts for
21 me to take back to our team on how we can
22 introduce a cybertrack at our convention. We

1 focus a lot on -- well our top two areas of --
2 our highest majors are Mechanical Engineering,
3 which is what I am, and Computer Science now. It
4 used to be electrical.

5 So that's the largest part of our
6 community, and in an audience like that, I think
7 there's an opportunity for us to plant a seed
8 particularly around work. And so I want to be
9 able to make sure that I deliver that. So maybe
10 a question and it may be a future conversation,
11 for how we can bring this information to our
12 audience in March, and how we can continue to
13 fortify or kind of build up an interest in cyber.

14 We don't have a lot of students that
15 work in the cyberspace, and I'm not really sure
16 of why, probably mostly lack of exposure. I find
17 that our students when they're not -- they're
18 exposed to very traditional work, and so they
19 follow after that work. And so maybe if there's
20 a way that we can expose them to these
21 opportunities, I'd like to be a resource to that,
22 and then want to know also if you have any, any

1 thoughts on that.

2 MS. WALDEN: Your conference is in
3 March?

4 MEMBER UZZELL: March, Kansas City.
5 There will be about 14,000 students there.

6 MS. WALDEN: Wow, good. First of all,
7 try to find an opportunity to bring someone from
8 our office to your conference. We will try. I
9 can't commit. The woman that can commit is in
10 the back of the room. So a couple of things come
11 to mind, and this will require further on
12 conversation.

13 One is to encourage your participating
14 schools. I'm sure your students go -- NESB
15 students are all over the country. But we need
16 to encourage schools to incorporate cybersecurity
17 as part of the regular curriculum. So that's the
18 first thing.

19 The second is to expose your students
20 to careers in cybersecurities, security, maybe
21 having engineers speaking to them about how they
22 operate in this space. The third is really on

1 us. So it turns out when a Computer Science
2 major shows up at our front doors in the
3 government and in other -- in other professions,
4 they're looking for certifications and two or
5 three years or five years of experience for an
6 entry level job.

7 We need to change that framework, and
8 that's on us moreso than it's on NESB. But
9 that's the partnership that we would be looking
10 for. It's on us to look at that framework and
11 shift it, because it seems to be counterintuitive
12 to me. I wouldn't want to turn away a trained
13 computer scientist because they don't have
14 whatever certification is necessary in the view
15 of the workforce.

16 So I think those are the three things.
17 One, the most important is to include
18 cybersecurity in curricula for Engineering, all
19 Engineering. Two is to show examples of
20 cybersecurity professionals who are engineers,
21 and three is on our part, to shift the
22 requirements for that first job. But I'm happy

1 to have that conversation with you.

2 MEMBER UZZELL: Great, appreciate it.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIR ALLEN: And Ms. Walden, I think
5 you'll be around for a little bit, in case there
6 are other questions from the audience.

7 MS. WALDEN: Just for a few moments.

8 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. Well thank you
9 for your time. I appreciate the job offer to
10 Paige.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MS. FRANKLIN: And at this time, we'll
13 have Mayor Landrieu come on to the table, and I
14 do want to advise that for those looking for the
15 WiFi code, it is HBCU22, HBCU all caps, 22. The
16 table or the podium sir?

17 MR. LANDRIEU: How about the podium?
18 Hi everybody. How y'all doing? I was nervous
19 before I got here and then Dr. Walter Kimbrough
20 walked in, and now I can't talk. Y'all know Dr.
21 Kimbrough was at Dillard. I'm from New Orleans,
22 in case y'all didn't know that. I'm from

1 Louisiana, and Dietra, thank you. Thank y'all
2 for having me. I don't mean to be too familiar
3 with everybody, but it's nice to see you.

4 You know, Dr. Kimbrough just left and
5 he took a little bit of break. He was walking in
6 the mountains, trying to clear his head, after
7 having been a president for a long time. He
8 wasn't paying attention to where he was going,
9 and he fell off the mountain. He was dropped and
10 he was like gone, and he was just like well what
11 am I going to do?

12 He reached up, and you know there was
13 one branch hanging off that mountain, one branch
14 and he grabbed it. He looked down; it was about
15 150 feet. He said oh Lord, is anybody up there?
16 And all of the sudden he heard this voice, and he
17 said "Good doctor, this is the Lord." "Oh Lord,
18 I'm so happy. Can you help me?"

19 He said "Well that depends, doctor."
20 He said "depends on what?" He said "Well do you
21 love me?" He said "Well, you know I love you.
22 I'm a man of faith. My daddy was a preacher."

1 He goes "You heard my daddy preach." He says
2 "Yeah, I know. But doc, do you love me?" He
3 goes "You know I love you Lord."

4 He goes "Yeah, but do you trust me?"
5 He goes "Lord, I trust you." He says "Say it one
6 more time." "I trust you." He says "One more
7 time, say I trust you."

8 And he said "Okay. Well let go of the branch."
9 Have they got anybody else up there that I can
10 talk to?

11 I'm sorry Dr. Kimbrough for using you
12 as a foil today, but it's nice to say you're my
13 brother, the hip-hop president. It just strikes
14 me that we're in a moment in our country where
15 trust is in short supply, and danger is all
16 around us. There's no need to be quiet about
17 that. We have throughout the history of our
18 country faced tremendous threats, but there are
19 times that are existential moments. Like the
20 President says from time to time, we're really
21 going to battle for the soul of America.

22 I don't need to tell anybody in here

1 that there's nothing that's going on in this
2 country that you have not seen, and that you have
3 not heard. It has just occupied itself with a
4 larger megaphone, with lots more people who feel
5 bold to stand up and say things that are wrong
6 and that are contrary to what America stands for.

7 So having said that as the context,
8 let me say to you as a little boy from Louisiana
9 who grew up at the knee of Dr. Norman C. Francis,
10 who was my father's best friend, who my daddy
11 passed two weeks ago. I got my first cup of okra
12 gumbo on Norman Francis' mother's porch in
13 Lafayette when I was 11 years old with his
14 brother, who was a bishop and grew up with all of
15 his kids.

16 I watched him take Xavier University
17 from a small, little bitty thing into one of the
18 great HBCUs of all time. In partnership with
19 Dillard, in partnership with Southern, in
20 partnership with Grambling, who my dear friend,
21 Ricky Gallot, is the president of when I was -- I
22 served in the legislature with him, have become

1 the rock for communities that need to be served,
2 that have been left behind like many other places
3 in the country.

4 And if there's some folks in this
5 country that have their way, we'll be forgotten
6 for a very, very long period of time. This
7 President though, and you know him and you can
8 feel him and you understand him, is committed to
9 a pretty simple notion, that we all come to the
10 table of democracy as equals in the United States
11 of America. That is the rock on which this civic
12 government rests, and that diversity is a
13 strength, it's not a weakness.

14 So therefore, if this country elected
15 him president, he would use his power to make
16 sure that he didn't just talk that talk, but he
17 walked that walk. Of course this President began
18 to do that with the selection of his vice
19 president, Vice President Kamala Harris, who's
20 been doing an unbelievable job.

21 I know you agree with me about that,
22 has appointed the most diverse Cabinet no matter

1 which way you cut it, because that's where the
2 rubber meets the road, and has set about making
3 sure that diversity really is a strength, not
4 just in the people that he appoints, but in the
5 programs that he creates.

6 If this country is going to be saved,
7 then it will be saved. Make no doubt about it.
8 We will win this battle, because we have to. As
9 the good Doctor said, the arch of the moral
10 universe bends towards justice, and then
11 President Obama added "but it don't bend on its
12 own." And we all know that we have had mothers
13 and fathers and aunts and uncles and brothers and
14 sisters that have been in the struggle, and
15 they're counting on us to continue the struggle.

16 That struggle is going to happen with
17 the leadership of the HBCUs. As if you haven't
18 had enough of a burden in your life, you're now
19 being called upon to save the country once again.

20 The President believes that if he uses
21 his good judgment and he uses his political
22 power, and he uses his intention, he can get the

1 resources where we need to have them, so that we
2 can lift the country up and also help build
3 generational wealth, help get resources to places
4 that they're needed and solve historic problems
5 that have been designed into a system that has
6 had disproportionate impact on places of color.

7 That's what drives this President, and
8 you can see it evident in the kinds of
9 legislation that he has passed. Whether it is
10 his response to COVID. When he got in office two
11 million people were vaccinated; now 200 million
12 people are vaccinated. Or in getting the
13 unemployment rate down, lowest black unemployment
14 and unemployment across the board in the last 50
15 years.

16 Or making sure money through the
17 American Rescue Plan was put into the hands of
18 folks who needed it the most, frontline workers
19 who needed it the most. City employees who
20 needed it the most. Public employees who needed
21 it the most. Transportation systems who needed
22 it the most, and in places that needed it the

1 most, and then comes along the need to actually
2 rebuild the community.

3 Now you don't need to tell communities
4 of color about potholes or about bridges that
5 don't work, or buses that don't show up, or for
6 those of us that are running public
7 transportation, how it feels getting off the back
8 of that bus with your backpack on and having that
9 bus take off with a cloud of smoke covering you
10 in such soot that you feel like you can't walk
11 for two or three minutes, the emissions from
12 those buses. This President understood that, and
13 so he passed a bipartisan infrastructure law
14 which I'm responsible, with a whole bunch of
15 other people, for overseeing, rebuilding roads
16 and bridges and airports and ports, waterways.
17 Clean air, clean water.

18 I was down in Lowndes County the other
19 day. A lot of folks might be surprised to know
20 if you didn't grow up in the neighborhood, then
21 not everybody has indoor plumbing. But if you're
22 from Georgia, if you're from Alabama and you're

1 from Louisiana, that's not a surprise. A lot of
2 people might be surprised to know, they have
3 these things called orphan wells in people's
4 neighborhoods that are just spewing stuff.

5 So that your kids are drinking nasty
6 stuff. You're catching fish that you can't eat,
7 right. You can't get to and from where you used
8 to go. Some people would be surprised by that,
9 but not if you grew up in the Black Belt you're
10 not surprised by that. Some people might be
11 confused about how they don't have clean water
12 coming out of their pipe like clean water comes
13 out of every pipe. They might not understand
14 lead.

15 But if you live in the neighborhood
16 that I came from, you live in the neighborhoods
17 around the country, you know that. You know who
18 understood that? The President of the United
19 States understood that. And so there's a
20 bucketload of money in this bill to make sure
21 that every kid has access to clean water.

22 If you didn't grow up in certain parts

1 of this country, you might be confused that
2 everybody doesn't have Internet, and you might be
3 confused about why people can't participate in
4 the economy, and be getting on them about why
5 they can't catch up. Well, one of the reasons
6 might be they actually don't have fiberoptic
7 cable somewhere close to where they live, or if
8 they do, they can't afford it.

9 And so when you tell somebody in a
10 nice neighborhood that there's a little girl
11 who's sitting in the back of her momma's car
12 outside of McDonald's trying to do her homework
13 or having her teacher bring it back and forth,
14 and then wondering why she's behind everybody
15 else, you know this President understood that.
16 So in this bill there's a bucketload of money to
17 make sure that every kid in America has access to
18 it, because doctor, maybe she's going to be the
19 next engineer.

20 Maybe she's going to be the next
21 person that designs the spacecraft that goes to
22 Mars. Maybe she's going to be the next president

1 of a HBCU like Dillard University and actually
2 change the world for us to come. This President
3 understood that. And so in this \$1.2 trillion
4 bill, roads, bridges, airports, ports, waterways,
5 high speed internet, clean air, clean water and a
6 clean energy economy where HBCUs can play, this
7 bill is designed to make sure that everybody gets
8 a chance.

9 Everybody gets a chance to
10 participate, everybody gets a chance to benefit,
11 and everybody gets a chance to grow. And
12 specifically as it relates to HBCUs, there are 40
13 programs in this bill totaling about \$15 billion
14 that HBCUs can apply for either directly or in
15 partnership, because throughout this entire bill,
16 there is this idea of equity, which some people
17 seem not to understand in this country.

18 They don't understand the connection
19 between equality and equity first of all, and
20 secondly they don't think equity is a necessary
21 goal and an intention. Not this President. This
22 President understands and believes and know it,

1 and knows that the future of the country hinges
2 on actually living up to the promise that
3 diversity is a strength, not a weakness.

4 There are forces in this country that
5 are now beginning for the first time in a very
6 long time in large numbers to actually question
7 that very idea about America, and it will be you,
8 the leaders of these institutions and the folks
9 that work there, and the students that you have
10 that are going to back that idea and prove to
11 them that they're actually wrong.

12 Because the President's view of the
13 world and I think the view of most people in the
14 room understand that that is America's number one
15 calling card in the country, and that is what
16 separates us from the rest of the world, and why
17 this country will always lead the world, because
18 diversity is our strength, not a weakness.

19 And so I commend this bill to you. we
20 have a document that's called Build.gov. My team
21 put it together, a couple of the folks back there
22 that actually wrote this thing. It was designed

1 to make it easy. It has one page on it for every
2 program in the bill. There are 375 programs, 125
3 of them are new. Go on to Build.gov. My kids
4 tell me it's easy to turn it on a remote control,
5 which I don't do very well.

6 I know some of y'all don't either, so
7 y'all can laugh at me all you want. There's a
8 piece called Rural.gov, because there's one thing
9 this President understands too, is that rural is
10 not white and urban is not black. There are only
11 people who never lived that think that that's
12 true, and everybody knows that's not true. All
13 you've got to do is travel across the South and
14 the Black Belt or the Delta or other parts of
15 this country to know that they've got black folk
16 and white folk and brown folk all over this
17 country that need to figure out how to live and
18 work together.

19 Oh by the way, you know this better
20 than anybody else. That's where the HBCUs anchor
21 this country and can help with this urban/rural
22 divide that seemingly exists in this country.

1 And so I commend all of these things to you. Now
2 when I walked in this room, this lady said she
3 graduated in 1984 like you were old. Girl, I
4 graduated so long ago I can't remember, and I'm
5 not going to tell y'all when I did it.

6 But I'm not a youngster anymore. I
7 was one day, and a long time ago. But the truth
8 of the matter is, you know, the more things
9 change sometimes the more they remain the same,
10 and we have problems that have not yet gotten put
11 away. But one of the things that needs to change
12 is the pipeline to build in generational wealth.

13 So I want to talk about that just for
14 a minute, and then I'm going to answer questions
15 that you might have. It is true that the
16 intention of some of this legislation is actually
17 focused on communities of color, like making sure
18 a baby boy or baby girl is not drinking water
19 with lead in it, or making sure that the bus
20 shows up on time or that the kind of bus that
21 shows up on time is not spewing nasty stuff and
22 is an electric bus that provides a place to go to

1 in a quick and thoughtful way.

2 It is true that there is money in this
3 bill to make sure that people have indoor
4 plumbing. It is true that this bill is focused
5 on making sure that it lands in communities where
6 it's supposed to be, like reconnecting
7 communities and taking down highways that were
8 actually designed to actually create division in
9 black communities.

10 Everybody in here knows this. You ask
11 where you momma lives, the answer is she lives
12 across the -- well something. It's either the
13 tracks, the water or the bridge, right? They
14 live on the other side of, the other side of the
15 tracks. That's where that comes from. These
16 intentional designs that actually separated
17 communities through intention or malignant intent
18 or benign neglect still had the same consequence.

19 There's a billion dollars in this bill
20 to actually reconnect neighborhoods and reform
21 it. Those are all really important things. But
22 it's the other piece of this that I want to just

1 think a bit about.

2 There are two ways that people get
3 money out of this bill. One is straight through
4 formulas that go to the governors. That's been
5 that way since Ronald Reagan became president and
6 he started talking about new federalism, and they
7 wanted to get everything down to the governors.

8 Half of this bill goes that way.

9 There's nothing I can do to alleviate the
10 politics on the ground of you negotiating with
11 your state representatives and your state
12 senators, I'm sure many of you represent well, to
13 go to the state and argue with your capital
14 outlay team and your ways and means team or your
15 appropriations team and/or your governor, to try
16 to get money that way.

17 But the other way is through
18 competitive grants, and in those competitive
19 grants, there is this idea of building a better
20 America, and I want to talk to you a little bit
21 about what that's about. Building a Better
22 America means equity goes through all of it. So

1 when -- this is an open book test, by the way.

2 When you're applying for the grants,
3 if the grant has a sense of equity in it, about
4 how they're going to reach out to the minority
5 community, how they're going to reach out to
6 minority institutions here at HBCUs.

7 Then all of a sudden that's going to
8 get a little plussed up, and that's going to be
9 looked on a little bit more favorable. If a
10 competitive grant has in it climate and
11 resilience and cybersecurity, it's going to get a
12 little plussed up. If it has in it building
13 stuff that's made in America so we can build a
14 manufacturing base, so people can build
15 businesses, it's going to get a little plussed
16 up.

17 If it has something to do with
18 building labor, because the President thinks
19 labor has been critically important to building
20 the middle class and the middle class has built
21 America, it's going to get plussed up. So the
22 whole idea that's written in the bill is don't

1 leave anybody behind, and those applications that
2 have all of that stuff in it, that force people
3 together, that build regionalism, that promote
4 diversity, everything's going to be good.

5 So that's one way to think about how
6 you're going to do it. But the other side is
7 this. Building generational wealth means that
8 you not only want to create buses that have
9 batteries that are clean, so that people can get
10 on them and have an experience if the bus shows
11 up on time, but wouldn't it be nice if you had
12 majority/minority firms that are actually
13 manufacturing the buses, and were actually the
14 ones that were leading the companies that
15 actually built those things?

16 So when those young men and women who
17 are coming to you getting advice and counsel
18 about where they're going to go work, that you
19 send them to where the jobs are. It's
20 importantly in fiberoptic cable. All those jobs
21 are going to be available in the cyberspace that
22 you talked about, but there's also a lot of money

1 in here. The innovation and the design and the
2 Minority Business Development Association that's
3 been run by a young man named Don Cravins, who's
4 actually from Opelousas, Louisiana, and the Small
5 Business Administration.

6 There's also a substantial amount of
7 money in this, as we were talking about before,
8 in the Department of Energy, in the Department of
9 Transportation, in the Department of Commerce for
10 research and development.

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

19 So I commend all of that to you, which
20 is to say this, and I'll end where I began. We
21 are in a struggle for the soul of America.
22 There's no question about it. All of these

1 details that we're talking about are critically
2 important. They're bricks that need to be laid,
3 foundations that need to be laid. But at the end
4 of the day, it will be the voices, the prophetic
5 voices of strong, courageous leaders like you who
6 stand up and are counted in this moment, and give
7 personification to this notion that unless
8 American goes forward together, we can't forward
9 at all.

10 This President understands that. He
11 knows that. He knows that we're in a battle, and
12 he believes that part of that battle is going to
13 be won in partnership with everybody in this
14 room. Thank you all very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIR ALLEN: Mr. Mayor, do you have
17 time for a few questions?

18 MR. LANDRIEU: I do. I have about
19 five minutes.

20 CHAIR ALLEN: And I want to make sure
21 that I got your quote right. The best
22 intellectual capital in the country comes from

1 HBCUs.

2 MR. LANDRIEU: You heard.

3 CHAIR ALLEN: All right. I just want
4 to make sure we -- Ms. Franklin, maybe you should
5 put that on the record.

6 MR. LANDRIEU: You heard.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: Senator.

8 MR. LANDRIEU: I didn't know that that
9 was debatable.

10 MEMBER JONES: Thank you so much for
11 your presentation. I'm Shevrin Jones, state
12 senator in Florida, graduate of Florida A&M
13 University. I appreciate your presentation
14 today.

15 MR. LANDRIEU: Sure.

16 MEMBER JONES: So I just want to speak
17 to one of the points that you made mention of,
18 when you spoke of how the dollars are split. You
19 said half of the dollars are sent to the state
20 legislatures, and then half of the dollars are
21 through the grant process where HBCUs can have
22 access to.

1 I totally get it, as you made mention,
2 that there's just some things that you all don't
3 have control over, of how those dollars are
4 dispersed in your governments. We spoke about
5 this in our --

6 MR. LANDRIEU: We have some, but not
7 all.

8 MEMBER JONES: Not all, exactly. Is
9 there a -- do you by chance have a list of the
10 other pot of dollars that you all -- that we have
11 access to that do not have to go through the
12 legislative process, that we can share with our
13 HBCUs?

14 MR. LANDRIEU: I heard you right. You
15 a senator or --

16 MEMBER JONES: I'm a senator.

17 MR. LANDRIEU: You're a senator. In
18 Florida?

19 MEMBER JONES: Yes.

20 MR. LANDRIEU: You're a good example
21 of what I'm about to talk about.

22 MEMBER JONES: Okay.

1 MR. LANDRIEU: It might be possible
2 that you have a governor --

3 (Laughter.)

4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 MR. LANDRIEU: You see I didn't
6 mention nothing about him. I don't think he's
7 going to Martha's Vineyard for vacation any time
8 soon. Ooh, y'all are in tune. But I'll use your
9 -- it's a good example. For example, you may or
10 may not be, I don't know this, on the same page
11 politically with your governor or not, nor do I
12 know what the process is for the state of Florida
13 getting money to the ground.

14 But in the -- to answer the first part
15 of your question, 50 percent of this money is
16 sent straight to the States. Every state's
17 different. I wouldn't pretend to know and I can
18 speak about Louisiana a little bit. But
19 essentially, most of this money goes to the
20 governor. The governor in that state has got a
21 big stick.

22 The governor initiates the budget.

1 That budget gets proposed to the legislature, it
2 goes through one side, the House and the Senate.
3 They argue about it, and at the end of the day
4 something comes out. They start designing a cow
5 and when it comes out it looks like a pig, all
6 right? That's the process. You know that. You
7 hustle that.

8 MEMBER JONES: Right, right.

9 MR. LANDRIEU: You go to your
10 committee and you try to get your piece of that,
11 right, and then you try to direct that and try to
12 use your leverage to make sure that you have
13 community support, and then it comes out how it
14 comes out in the budget and the capital outlay.
15 That's generally the way half of it happens, and
16 it changes from state to state just a little bit.
17 Now there are things, for example, coming out of
18 EPA like the state revolving water funds, where
19 we send hundreds of millions.

20 By the way, every one of your states
21 has gotten billions of dollars. Don't let nobody
22 tell you they don't have any money. That's just

1 not true. I don't want to call anybody a liar,
2 but I'm just saying I wouldn't use that word. I
3 would just say that's just not true. We have a
4 state by state list of all of the money that
5 every state is going to be given, you know, for
6 the next five to seven years over this bill.

7 But it's billions of dollars in all of
8 the categories that I told you about, and in that
9 document that I told you that we produced for
10 you, Build.gov, it will be there, and then if you
11 go online there's tons of resources to tell you
12 how much, for example, we have given the Florida.
13 I can tell you it's billions.

14 I was there a couple of weeks ago, and
15 we gave a billion dollar check to the state to
16 redo the Everglades. We also put a lot of money
17 into the Orlando Airport. We also put a lot of
18 money into the Brightline, and I could go around
19 to each one of your states, if I have my staff
20 sitting with me, and give you chapter and verse
21 about how much money has been sent there so that
22 you know, you don't have to know the specifics.

1 You just need to know they got money.

2 You know how when people say when I
3 got -- when I got to the legislature in 1988, we
4 had a billion dollar deficit. We couldn't meet
5 payroll the next day, and when I became Mayor of
6 the city, we could have gone into bankruptcy.
7 It's not like that now. Every state in this
8 nation has money right now.

9 So if they tell you they don't want to
10 give you money, that's one thing. But if they
11 say they don't have money, that's just not true.
12 And so you got that debate that you have to have,
13 and you've got to use your convening power to get
14 your constituents to move in that regard.

15 Now there's another piece of this
16 bill, and it's in this document too called
17 Build.gov, where there are competitive programs.
18 I have a list of them right here. There are 40
19 programs, right, that HBCUs are specifically
20 spoken about, not designated at HBCUs but have
21 strong equity allotments in them for about \$15
22 billion.

1 Now I don't want to give you the
2 impression that you only have access to \$15
3 billion. You've got access to 1.2 trillion,
4 depending on where you live. But these are
5 competitive programs that you can apply for in
6 partnership with small cities, small counties and
7 oh by the way, and Dr. Kimbrough know this.

8 When I was Mayor of the City of New
9 Orleans, I always ask what can the universities
10 do to help us and just fill in the blank, deal
11 with violence on the streets, deal with clean air
12 and clean water? How we make sure that actually
13 transportation is designed in a way that makes
14 sense? How can universities be a critical part,
15 and then finally on workforce development and
16 training?

17 I would be remiss if I did not speak
18 to this point. In 2008 when we had the financial
19 crisis, all of a sudden our system got stressed,
20 and right away you saw the holes in it. When
21 Katrina hit, besides all of the incredible death
22 and destruction that we had, we saw right away

1 all of the holes that were in our recovery system
2 that nobody had thought about.

3 As you push all this money into this
4 new system, the biggest bill that we've had in
5 the past 50 or 60 years, you're going to see
6 holes too, and there are a couple of them. One,
7 technical assistance to small counties, towns and
8 communities. This is something that HBCUs can
9 help small towns and communities do.

10 Intellectual capital of the United States of
11 America, grant writers that are actually going to
12 bring money down that you can be a part of.

13 You ought to have faculty members
14 working on this all the time. Technical
15 assistance to small towns, communities that have
16 great needs. So I'm just thinking about Ricky
17 Gallot right now because he's up in Grambling in
18 North Louisiana. I haven't talked to Ricky about
19 this, I should call him Richard or Mr. President,
20 I'm sorry.

21 I would say Richard, you ought to be
22 talking to every little town and community, and

1 helping them figure out how you're going to use
2 your intellectual capital to bring this federal
3 money down to the ground, number one. Number
4 two, all you kids need a job when they get out.
5 There's lots of jobs available right now in all
6 of the areas, doctor, that we were talking about,
7 especially in science, especially in engineering,
8 which is going to get you thinking about how do I
9 change, you know, my course work in order to
10 produce the number of jobs that they need to
11 actually do what? Design carbon capture hubs,
12 right, the clean energy future, whatever it might
13 be. Huge numbers of engineering degrees.

14 In the project management space in
15 transportation, hundreds of thousands of people.
16 Laying fiber optic cable, we're 800,000 people
17 short. And so in this area of workforce
18 development and training, which by the way
19 nobody's very good at in the country. Maybe
20 there's some good pilot projects around the
21 country, but as a whole, as a team, federal,
22 state, local, not-for-profit, faith-based

1 organizations, we're not together.

2 We need to get ourselves coordinated,
3 and HBCUs can play a critical role in that area
4 as well, and there are funds in there to help
5 you, to help you do it.

6 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you Mr. Mayor.
7 Time for one more question?

8 MR. LANDRIEU: Sure.

9 CHAIR ALLEN: Any other questions from
10 the Committee?

11 MEMBER ROSS: Thank you Mayor for
12 being here, and I appreciate you mentioning
13 Lowndes County, Alabama. I'm Quinton Ross,
14 president of Alabama State University.

15 MR. LANDRIEU: Well you know then.

16 MEMBER ROSS: Former state senator, so
17 it is true.

18 MR. LANDRIEU: Well you know, both of
19 what I speak about working with --

20 MEMBER ROSS: Exactly, exactly, and I
21 think you answered part of my question in terms
22 of the university's partnering with various

1 municipalities in order to provide that technical
2 assistance. And of course you know the
3 challenge. You mentioned it to Senator Jones
4 about working with, with the governor.

5 Is there technical assistance that
6 comes from your office to the institutions to,
7 you know, kind of help guide that partnership, or
8 would you all be willing to provide that?

9 MR. LANDRIEU: It doesn't come -- the
10 answer is yes and no. It doesn't come directly
11 from my office but in each one of the
12 departments.

13 MEMBER ROSS: Okay.

14 MR. LANDRIEU: So think about what we
15 talked about. We talked about transportation, so
16 DOT, Department of Energy, Department of
17 Commerce, Department of Interior and Agriculture
18 particularly. There's technical assistance in
19 all of those departments to assist you with that.
20 The other thing we can do, and I neglected to
21 mention Senator Jones, was that we do have
22 oversight of how the states are going to spend

1 the money.

2 So for let's just say for example in
3 -- let's talk about Mississippi. Talk about
4 Jackson, Mississippi. You don't want to talk
5 about Jackson? I'll talk about it broadly and
6 not specifically, because I've been there and I'm
7 going to back soon as is our team. By the way,
8 FEMA's on the ground down there. The Corps of
9 Engineers is on the ground down there, the
10 President's team is there with Mayor Lumumba.
11 I'm working really, really hard with him to make
12 sure that the citizens of Jackson have safe
13 drinking water, which should not really be
14 debatable, right?

15 So we're going to be there for the
16 long haul on that. But let's just say, for
17 example, the governor of that state gets \$400
18 million for safe water. The governor's got to
19 present a plan to us. The plan's got to include
20 everybody. If everybody is not included in the
21 plan, we don't approve the money. So it's trust
22 but verify.

1 So yeah, the governors do get to spend
2 it, but we also get to say yea or nay, you
3 followed the rules or you didn't follow the
4 rules. Same thing on transportation. If you
5 give a governor a bucketload of money and he
6 wants to go put a big highway, you know, down in
7 a historically African-American neighborhood,
8 that dog don't hunt, right, in this
9 administration.

10 So we have oversight from that
11 perspective, as well as we can play offense and
12 we can play defense. The bigger point of this is
13 you -- we have not -- there has not been an
14 administration in a long time that has had the
15 resources to actually get this stuff to the
16 ground on offense, and be in a position to play
17 defense as well, and be specifically intentional
18 about the issue of equity, which this
19 administration is overt about, is proud about and
20 it's critical, we believe, to the future of this
21 country.

22 Because at the end of the day, as I

1 have said when I started, and I'll end with this,
2 diversity is this nation's greatest strength, and
3 if we get that right, there's nothing that we
4 can't do. If we don't get that right, we're
5 going to stay stuck like we seem to be at the
6 moment. But I'm counting on everybody in this
7 room, as is the President, to help unleash the
8 spirit, the real spirit, the real truth and the
9 real promise of America. Thank you all so much.
10 God bless you all.

11 (Applause.)

12 DR. TRENT: Thank you Mr. Landrieu.
13 We really appreciate you taking time to come and
14 speak to us. I know you had to change your
15 schedule, so we really appreciate this
16 opportunity. Thank you.

17 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay, everyone. We're
18 going to take a ten minute break. We will
19 reconvene at 11:20.

20 (Whereupon at 11:09 a.m., the above-
21 entitled matter went off the record and resumed
22 at 11:24 a.m.)

1 MS. FRANKLIN: Dr. Allen, I do want
2 the record to reflect that Dr. Kimbrough is
3 present.

4 CHAIR ALLEN: He's not hanging from a
5 tree?

6 MS. FRANKLIN: Dr. Kimbrough, if you
7 would confirm your presence?

8 MEMBER KIMBROUGH: You heard my man.
9 He said I'm here.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MS. FRANKLIN: Thank you Dr.
12 Kimbrough. Also --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MS. FRANKLIN: I would also like the
15 record to reflect that Dr. Baskin Glover, our co-
16 chair, is also present. Dr. Glover, would you
17 confirm your presence please?

18 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: I am present,
19 thank you.

20 CHAIR ALLEN: I would like to yield to
21 Dr. Glover just for some welcome remarks as my
22 co-chair chief.

1 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Thank you. Good
2 morning to everybody.

3 VOICES: Good morning.

4 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: It is a joy to see
5 such, this level of interest in the future of
6 HBCUs and where we're headed. I'm just
7 appreciative of the thoughts and comments that
8 we received over the last few weeks and months,
9 about things we could do to make the Committee
10 reasonable for everybody and available to
11 everybody. I'm just honored to serve with Dr.
12 Allen as chair, who is -- who gets it done.

13 So I thank you all as we work through
14 this together. It's going to take all of us in
15 this room, all of our friends, all of our
16 associates, everybody in our circle, to make it
17 work. So we are here together for the benefit of
18 HBCUs. So I thank you all for coming, and I'm
19 enjoying myself already. Thank you all.

20 MALE PARTICIPANT: Thanks Doctor.

21 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you Dr. Glover,
22 for all the AKAs. She'll be available for

1 pictures later. I'd also like to recognize Dr.
2 Eric Cage, president of West Virginia State, who
3 joined us a little late. If he's still in the
4 room, can you please stand and be recognized? He
5 stepped out maybe, okay. I'll turn it over to
6 Dr. Trent here in a moment, but let me say that
7 this should be a very robust discussion.
8 Undersecretary Kvall has been a stalwart support
9 of HBCUs, is certainly a friend to us, a personal
10 friend to me.

11 I'm glad to have him here. We have a
12 lot of questions on our mind with respect to the
13 Department of Education. I know you have a lot
14 of great updates, particularly a big shout out on
15 the Student Debt Relief Initiative that I think
16 is very, very powerful.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIR ALLEN: I've said publicly I
19 believe the most comprehensive, wide-ranging debt
20 relief initiative in the history of our country.
21 So thanks to obviously to the President, but to
22 the Secretary Cardona and certainly to you for

1 your leadership. So I'll turn it over to Dr.
2 Trent to introduce you formally.

3 DR. TRENT: So I think everybody here
4 knows the Undersecretary James Kvall, who served
5 also in President Obama's administration. In
6 President Biden's administration, he's overall
7 all of the higher ed stuff. He's been an
8 incredible supporter, has worked very, very
9 closely with me as we continue to try to make
10 opportunities available for HBCUs. He is no
11 stranger to us, and so as this point I will just
12 ask him to do his presentation. Thank you for
13 being here, James.

14 MR. KVALL: Thank you Dr. Trent and
15 Dr. Allen. I appreciate all of your partnership
16 on HBCU issues, and Dr. Glover, great to see you
17 again. It's a pleasure for me to be back here.
18 I know we had a chance to talk at our last
19 meeting.

20 For Secretary Cardona and me, you
21 know, a real focus when we approached higher
22 education, when we got together over tacos while

1 I was still pending confirmation, you know, we
2 talked about what is it that we wanted to do.

3 It is about tapping the potential of
4 higher education for upward mobility and to
5 create equitable opportunities, which is
6 something our country needs so badly that few
7 institutions, if any, are as capable of
8 delivering as our higher education institutions
9 are.

10 And that's why HBCUs have been so
11 important to this administration, because
12 fundamentally you're talking about a group of
13 colleges and universities that, at their core,
14 are about racial equity, that in everything they
15 do at every level, they serve that mission.
16 That's why it is so important for us to keep them
17 at the center of what we do, to invest in them.

18 We know that the hard work is
19 happening on your campuses, but if we can be the
20 wind at your back and to help invest in what's
21 working, that's the role that we want to play.
22 I think for -- with respect to our policy

1 initiatives, we sort of think about them in two
2 broad strokes, and one is student debt and the
3 other is inclusive institutions.

4 For student debt, you know, our
5 concern is that for some students, loans have
6 reached the point where they're sapping away that
7 benefit of higher education, that potential for
8 upward mobility. Prior to the pause, we had a
9 million students a year default on their student
10 loans, with really devastating consequences, and
11 there's racial disparities built in in every
12 level.

13 Black students are more likely to
14 borrow, they borrow more, they're less likely to
15 take advantage of the benefits we offer, and so
16 they're, you know, our current structure of the
17 student loan programs are a direct threat to our
18 efforts to make colleges and universities
19 institutions that promote upward mobility.

20 Of course Dr. Allen referenced it.
21 The President made a huge announcement about a
22 month ago, that we would be cancelling up to

1 \$20,000 in student debt for people with
2 outstanding loans.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. KVALL: I think the most fun part
5 of rollout day was Dr. Allen sending a video of
6 himself addressing his students, talking about
7 the new initiative. It got me all fired up, and
8 if you haven't seen it I highly recommend it.
9 You can find it on the Secretary's Twitter
10 account, among other places.

11 This initiative, it's going to help
12 all 43 million people with student loans. Almost
13 half of them will get their loans completely
14 cancelled. We estimate that about two million
15 HBCUs alums will benefit from this initiative.
16 So it's a really far-reaching effort. Our focus
17 right now is making sure that it all goes as
18 smoothly as possible.

19 We are expecting to make the
20 application available in early October. We will
21 give people until November 15th if you apply some
22 time in that window. We will process your

1 cancellation before loan payments restart at the
2 end of the year. So we're working very, very
3 hard to make sure that process is as easy as
4 possible for borrowers, it's clear and doing
5 everything we can to prepare for what will surely
6 be an unprecedented amount of volume and strain
7 on our websites.

8 We got 12 million visits in the two
9 days after the President's announcement, and this
10 will surely be even higher. So I think whatever
11 you all can do to get the word out, we do need
12 people to apply. There's an exception for people
13 whose FASFA data we have, or people who we have
14 their recent income because they're enrolled in
15 income-driven repayment.

16 So for people for whom we can waive
17 that application requirement we're going to do
18 that and just process automatically. That's
19 about eight million people. But everyone else
20 will need to come to our website and fill out a
21 very short form, and we're encouraging people to
22 think of it as a health insurance open season.

1 So you don't need to come on Day 1; you need to
2 come some time over this four to six week period.

3 CHAIR ALLEN: Can you just remind
4 people of the website?

5 MR. KVALL: The website is
6 Studentaid.gov. That's our main website. We're
7 going to put up an intercept page that will give
8 you the option of going directly to the
9 application, yeah. We also, you know, we don't
10 want this to be the last word. We recognize this
11 is a one-time action, and we need to take further
12 steps to address student debt, both loans people
13 have now and current students and future
14 students.

15 The President announced a new loan
16 repayment plan that we will be putting in place.
17 It is an income-driven repayment plan, so what
18 you pay will be based upon your monthly income.
19 If you make less than about \$30,000 as a single
20 person, you will not owe any payments. Above
21 that, on your undergraduate loans, you will owe
22 five percent of your income.

1 So this is a very, very generous
2 repayment plan relative to any existing plans, we
3 think. For a medium borrower, you're talking
4 about reducing payments by 40 percent. For
5 someone in the bottom third of income, you will
6 have to make only very modest payments on your
7 loan over the life of the loan. So it's a
8 really, really important step that we're taking
9 to make loans permanently more affordable.

10 We're also working really hard on the
11 types of loan forgiveness programs that exist in
12 current law. So we're trying to make public
13 service loan forgiveness work, and I know the
14 members of this Board have been working really
15 hard to get the word out on that. People have
16 until the end of October to take full advantage
17 of some of the waivers we've put in place.

18 It's been a very successful program.
19 When this administration started, we had in the
20 history of the program about 7,000 people who had
21 ever benefitted from public service loan
22 forgiveness. We're now up to 200,000. We still

1 have a ways to go, and we're doing similar things
2 for people who were cheated by for-profit
3 colleges, people who became totally disabled.

4 We want to make sure all of these
5 benefits actually reach the people that they were
6 intended to, which historically they have not.

7 The second big area is investing in
8 inclusive institutions, and of course we've
9 worked very hard to invest in HBCUs through the
10 American Rescue Plan, some of the other
11 legislation we've passed. In every annual
12 budget, we have sought increases in Title III,
13 and I think you can expect to see that continue.
14 HBCUs are a very high priority for us.

15 We have released a funding program
16 around college completion. We originally sought
17 \$60 billion, we got five million, so that's how
18 it goes sometimes. But in thinking about what's
19 it -- how to make the biggest difference with
20 five million, we focused it on HBCUs and other
21 MSIs. So that application window is closing
22 soon.

1 We have extended the Project Success
2 Program. I know Dr. Allen spoke to me about that
3 a couple of times. So we will be extending that
4 program for an additional three years. That
5 provides direct funding for HBCUs and other MSIs
6 to implement student success initiatives. You
7 know, I think you can see, hopefully we get a
8 budget this year. I think we don't know for sure
9 whether Congress is going to pass one or continue
10 to do continuing resolutions.

11 But if they do, we're hopeful to see
12 very substantial increases in investments in
13 HBCUs and MSIs, and also in this college
14 completion work. In the meantime, we're doing
15 whatever we can to try and shine a light on
16 places that are really leaders here, and that's
17 where the Secretary is today.

18 I'm sure you know he's in Orangeburg
19 visiting two HBCUs down there, and we're going to
20 continue to do whatever we can, because there's
21 nothing more important in higher education than
22 saying what our country needs are places that are

1 dedicated to inclusivity, and that are the places
2 that are changing lives.

3 We don't always give those places the
4 attention they deserve, the resources they
5 deserve. A handful of highly selective, very
6 well-endowed institutions seem to dominate the
7 national conversation. But when you think about
8 the work that should be prestigious, that should
9 be rewarded, it is that inclusivity mission that
10 every HBCU embraces and is organized around.

11 And so Secretary Cardona is going to
12 do everything he can for as long as he's in
13 office, to try and reorient that culture around
14 higher education, around the institutions that
15 our country so badly needs. So thank you, and do
16 we have time for a little bit of conversation?

17 CHAIR ALLEN: We sure do.

18 MR. KVAL: Okay, great.

19 CHAIR ALLEN: Questions from the
20 Committee.

21 MS. FRANKLIN: And Dr. Allen, we just
22 want to recognize those that are joining us

1 virtually as well. If there are any questions,
2 please unmute yourself.

3 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. Let's start with
4 Dr. Glover.

5 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Thank you so much.
6 You have been just a lightening rod for us, and
7 we really appreciate the work that you're doing.
8 I get a lot of questions from alums of HBCUs,
9 asking about do they have to have -- if they've
10 gone to default on their student loan, how do
11 they work that out? Do they have to come out of
12 default first, or is there a program for that?

13 MR. KVALL: Yeah. So the President
14 announced an initiative called Fresh Start, which
15 means that every borrower in default can move
16 back into good standing. And so they will begin
17 the loan repayment period just like everyone else
18 on Day 1 with payment due. They do need to
19 contact their current loan servicer or their
20 collection agency, whoever is managing their
21 account right now, and say yes, I want to proceed
22 with Fresh Start.

1 When they do that, we will transfer
2 them to a new loan servicer, and they can begin
3 making payments. So that's, you know, obviously
4 that's life-changing for some eight million
5 people. It will give them access to student aid
6 again, among all the other benefits of avoiding
7 wage garnishment and tax offsets.

8 So really, really proud of that step,
9 and you know, my hope is the things that we're
10 doing, the new repayment plan and a wide variety
11 of other steps, we really want to focus on trying
12 to reduce defaults going forward, because those
13 are the people who are really caught in the gears
14 of the student loan program and are suffering.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Senator.

16 MEMBER JONES: Thank you so much Mr.
17 Chair, and thank you Mr. Secretary for the work
18 that you all are doing. I just want to piggyback
19 off of Vice Chair Glover, that we really do
20 appreciate the work that you all are doing. I
21 want to home in on the investing in inclusive
22 institutions. I'm from Florida, and you see

1 what's happening in our legislature, and a lot of
2 the university presidents of HBCUs and
3 presidents, are trying to figure out how to
4 maneuver around the new law and how we teach
5 Black History.

6 More particularly at Florida A&M,
7 President Robinson made it clear that his history
8 teachers are -- they're not clear on -- they've
9 asked the governor's office for direction.
10 They've gotten no direction. Can you all by
11 chance --

12 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: No kidding.

13 MEMBER JONES: No kidding, right. Is
14 there anything that we can communicate to the
15 presidents when it comes to this inclusivity that
16 you all are trying to build in institutions, and
17 coupling that with the fear that they have? Who
18 trumps who? Should they be scared of DeSantis,
19 or should they have faith that the Department is
20 going to come in for their rescue?

21 MR. KVALL: Well, we have been
22 following this issue really closely, and I was

1 down in Florida. I met with a group of faculty
2 members who talked about because there is so much
3 uncertainty about what the law actually requires,
4 a lot of administrators are encouraging people to
5 be extremely conservative. They talked about
6 faculty members taking down pride flags, taking
7 down Black Lives Matters signs, changing their
8 reading assignments.

9 You know, I think that stuff really
10 matters. That does send a signal to students
11 whether they're welcome on campus or whether
12 they're seen as having a connection with that
13 community. So it's a grave concern.

14 One thing that we have looked at very
15 carefully is the accreditation aspect, and as you
16 know those laws are now requiring Florida
17 colleges and universities to switch accreditors,
18 and that is complemented by the regulations put
19 in place by the Trump administration that allow
20 any regional accreditor to serve nationwide
21 institutions.

22 So what we have said to colleges and

1 universities is that you need to have a good
2 reason to switch. We want to know why you're
3 switching, and if you -- if it is not voluntary
4 for you or if the switch is motivated by an
5 attempt to evade academic freedom or freedom of
6 speech protections that your accreditor has put
7 in place, that that would be of concern to us.

8 So we are trying to be as supportive
9 as we can of SACs and accreditors generally, as
10 they work to protect equity initiatives and
11 freedom of speech on college campuses.

12 MEMBER JONES: Thank you.

13 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Ross.

14 MEMBER ROSS: Mr. Chairman thank you,
15 and first of all, I'd like to thank you for your
16 leadership in providing information to all of us
17 and the way that you communicate about all of the
18 various things that the United States Department
19 of Education is doing for our students. I really
20 appreciate that.

21 Mr. Undersecretary, thank you. I was
22 happy to hear about the income-sensitive program

1 that you all have, because when I made 30,000 it
2 wasn't that sensitive to me, but we're happy that
3 it's there. And having said that, in terms of
4 the video that the Chairman has produced, as well
5 as letters that we have sent out on our various
6 campuses, what else can we do to help get the
7 word out.

8 Information is key in making sure that
9 our constituents are able to access this
10 information. Do you have any other
11 recommendations?

12 MR. KVALL: Yeah, and we'd be happy to
13 prepare some materials, some follow-up through
14 Dr. Trent to make sure you all have what our
15 priorities are. I think in the short-term now,
16 before the application launches, we're trying to
17 get clear information out there. Everything that
18 we have said about exactly how this is going to
19 work, eligibility, how it gets applied to loans,
20 all the details are on studentaid.gov/debtrelief.

21 We're also very worried about
22 scammers, if that's the technical term. But

1 we've already seen people trying to market to
2 students, trying to get them to pay fees, trying
3 to get them to turn over sensitive information.
4 So we want to make sure that people know what the
5 official site is, and that we're never going to
6 ask them to pay us anything.

7 Once the application launches, which
8 again will be early October, then we're going to
9 be trying to make sure people understand that
10 they'll have a period of time to apply. So we
11 don't need 40 million people to go to the website
12 on the first day. Hopefully, we'll be ready if
13 they do, but we want to make sure people
14 recognize that they will have four to six weeks
15 to apply, and still have that cancellation
16 process before payments resume.

17 And then following that November 15th
18 date, you know, we want to make sure anyone who
19 hasn't applied to then, we're still reaching out
20 to. We want to make sure people are thinking
21 about loan repayments restarting, and that they
22 have a plan for that. And we want to make sure

1 people are taking advantage of income-driven
2 repayment, public service loan forgiveness and
3 the other benefits that we offer.

4 MEMBER ROSS: As a follow-up Mr.
5 Chairman, and as you speak through it, it may be
6 some presidents have already done it. But I
7 guess it would be in our interest to ensure that
8 we have the link of your website on our website
9 to show how official, official it is --

10 MR. KVALL: That's a great idea.

11 MEMBER ROSS: That helps individuals,
12 you know, to cipher from a scam. So if we have
13 the official website connected to ours --

14 MR. KVALL: That would be great.

15 MEMBER ROSS: Yeah, I think that that
16 may help us in directing individuals too.

17 MR. KVALL: Thank you.

18 MEMBER ROSS: Okay, yeah. Thank you
19 Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Mr. Deese.

21 MEMBER DEESE: Oh, I'm sorry.

22 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. Dr. Kimbrough.

1 MEMBER KIMBROUGH: It's still morning.
2 Good morning. I want to follow up on President
3 Ross' question, but just a little bit different
4 twist. What would be helpful for the HBCU
5 community to do, to be supportive of not only the
6 loan forgiveness program, but as you indicated,
7 the support we received through the American
8 Rescue Plan as well.

9 Because we know that, you know,
10 particularly for the loan forgiveness program,
11 there's been a lot of pushback, a lot of us are
12 in, most of us are in red states where we've had
13 elected officials in Louisiana, John Kennedy is
14 one of the people who's not fair. So we're
15 getting a lot of that pushback. You even have
16 people, and I'm going to call him by name, Mitch
17 Daniels at Purdue, who's been dragging everybody
18 because he is saying our students aren't
19 responsible like his students at Purdue, even
20 though he's remade the institution to be much
21 more private and upper class students.

22 So what can we do to be supportive,

1 because there still is that pushback, and people,
2 if they have a chance to reverse it, they will?

3 MR. KVALL: Yeah. I think that's
4 right, and we do expect litigation. I don't see
5 a path to getting past President Biden's veto in
6 the short term, but I do think we are entering a
7 big argument over student loans right now, and
8 there was a New York Times story yesterday
9 talking about the cost of this for taxpayers,
10 quoting a number of progressives.

11 And you know, I think that it's not
12 like this wasn't a problem a month ago when these
13 loans were unaffordable but the cost was on
14 students. But now that the cost is being paid by
15 taxpayers, it's a problem we're talking about.
16 There's no reason that we should be operating the
17 student loan program to make a profit for
18 taxpayers. The whole point of this program is to
19 offer a good deal to students.

20 So I do think it is helpful to have
21 people's voices coming in and talking about why
22 we need student loan programs that are offered on

1 generous terms to students, that you know, the
2 dollar figures are large here but the student
3 loan program is a \$1.4 trillion program. It's
4 behind only mortgage debt.

5 So you know, if we're going to do
6 something meaningful, it's going to have large
7 dollar signs. I think engaging in that debate
8 would be really, really helpful, you know. You
9 all have influential voices. You have voices
10 that are respected on both sides of the aisle,
11 and you know, we're already sort of seeing this
12 as a big football.

13 And I am, I'm worried that if in the
14 short term this is seen as wasteful spending, it
15 will set back all of the other things that we
16 want to do to make loans more generous for
17 students.

18 CHAIR ALLEN: Ms. Franklin, can you
19 check the chat to see if there are any questions
20 from our Committee members virtually.

21 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Thank you.
22 Javaune Adams-Gaston, president of Norfolk State

1 University. First let me say thank you so very
2 much for the work that has been done to support
3 HBCUs and to support the education of our
4 students. Just note that many of us,
5 particularly those in the private but across the
6 HBCU landscape, have kept our tuitions down or
7 frozen for multiple years.

8 We've only been able to do that
9 because of the support of the administration. So
10 I want to thank you for that. But thinking
11 forward and thinking out to where we need to go
12 and what's going to happen next, just want to get
13 your thoughts on things that we could be doing to
14 gear up and things that the government may be
15 doing to gear up to help in the future as we move
16 forward.

17 MR. KVALL: Yeah. So the President is
18 going keep calling for big increases in Pell
19 grants, big increases in funding for HBCUs, you
20 know, and these things are possible, you know.
21 His budget talks about a plan to double Pell
22 grants before he leaves office and shows how that

1 can be done within a paid-for federal budget. So
2 these are not pipe dreams.

3 They do require the consent of
4 Congress, and we've gotten a \$400 increase in
5 Pell grants. That's the largest in quite some
6 time, but it's not enough, and I think we need to
7 keep working with Congress to make sure they
8 understand the wisdom of these investments.

9 The place where the Secretary has a
10 lot more ability to act independently of Congress
11 is on the student loan repayment side, and we
12 have -- the way our program is structured in a
13 budgetary sense, if we have legal authority to
14 carry out a benefit program, we also have budget
15 authority.

16 A lot of agencies that, you know, need
17 to go back to Congress for money. We don't when
18 it comes to the student loan program. So that's
19 why you're seeing a lot of focus there on what we
20 can do to address inequity and affordability to
21 the loan program. That will continue. I
22 understand it's not the same as having those

1 resources to serve the student while she's on
2 campus, and for that we really need the help of
3 Congress and we need the help of states.

4 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Thank you.

5 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Glover.

6 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Mr. Chair, I think
7 I decided not to ask my question. I had one on
8 Critical Race Theory, but I'll just withhold it
9 til later.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. I see you smiling
11 so --

12 MR. KVALL: She's got my cell number,
13 so I believe her.

14 CHAIR ALLEN: Can we talk a little bit
15 about the availability or flexibility of the
16 HEERF dollars. Many of us still have some excess
17 dollars, but need a little bit more flexibility,
18 particularly as it relates to infrastructure on
19 our respective campuses. Does the Department
20 have a point of view or any specific programs on
21 that issue?

22 MR. KVALL: Yeah. We have been

1 working very hard. I know we supported that
2 language when it was passed earlier this year,
3 and we have been trying to answer questions as
4 they come up. I know there have been a couple of
5 areas where people have asked for flexibility
6 that unfortunately we haven't been able to give,
7 like pre-existing projects.

8 But if there are still outstanding
9 questions from this group about how that process
10 works or what the eligibility is, you know, I'd
11 love to try to figure out what those are and how
12 we can get those answered as quickly as possible
13 because it's been, it must have been six or seven
14 months now, so yeah.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay, thank you. Any
16 other questions? Dr. Trent, you want to close
17 this out?

18 DR. TRENT: Sure. James, thank you so
19 much for coming back and to providing us with
20 this very informative update. I will say that he
21 and his team have been working tirelessly on all
22 of these issues, and they have had HBCUs at the

1 forefront of all of these conversations. So
2 every chance I get to talk about the great
3 partnership that we have, I want to say because
4 it's -- it has been a true partnership, so thank
5 you so very much.

6 MR. KVALL: Thanks, thank you, and can
7 I just say thank you to all of you. I know how
8 this is an incredibly distinguished group. It's
9 a real -- we're really very fortunate that
10 you're willing to volunteer your time and be
11 supportive of us, and it's a privilege for me to
12 get a few minutes of your time. So thank you,
13 and thank you Dr. Trent for everything you do.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Committee, before we
16 break for lunch, I do ant to go through a couple
17 of key takeaways from the morning. I just want
18 to make sure that we have them jotted down. So
19 anybody have specific key takeaways for the
20 Committee that we should be thinking about? From
21 any of the presentations, Mayor Landrieu, Ms.
22 Walden, Undersecretary Kvall? Patrick.

1 MEMBER COKLEY: Thank you Mr. Chair.
2 If I could, one takeaway that I would also
3 suggest that we consider, just even in light of
4 our last discussion about contacting with
5 students. One of the things that I've learned
6 over the course of my engagement with young
7 people right now is that they are not using
8 email. And so we just had a wonderful
9 conversation about --

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Paige just said nope.

11 MEMBER COKLEY: Not at all and --

12 (Off mic comment.)

13 MEMBER COKLEY: And I'm attempting to
14 give them money, and they're still not emailing
15 me back. So in our conversation that especially
16 Quinton brought up about making sure that we're
17 sharing information, I just want to encourage us
18 on the record to make use of broader social media
19 platforms, make sure that we're reaching out to
20 our latest generation of students using
21 Instagram, using Tik Tok, using whatever social
22 media approach is the most advanced, and

1 understanding that even as distasteful as it may
2 be to say I need to make a dance video in order
3 to share information about my university, to
4 consider how we do that.

5 CHAIR ALLEN: All right, yes Senator.

6 MEMBER JONES: Thank you Mr. Chair.
7 Very briefly, one recommendation that I want to
8 ask if we can as a Board can talk about, speaking
9 about all the dollars that are readily available.
10 Many of the HBCUs, and I'm hearing this. I just
11 heard it today and after our last meeting, they
12 don't have the capacity to handle the workload
13 when it comes to these grants that we see.

14 So maybe we can brainstorm to see how
15 we could provide that assistance to HBCU
16 presidents, so they don't apply for these
17 dollars, but then yet and still they don't have
18 anyone in place to do the reporting for a lot of
19 those things.

20 CHAIR ALLEN: Yep, yes. Appreciate
21 that.

22 MEMBER JONES: No problem.

1 MEMBER ROSS: Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIR ALLEN: Yes, Dr. Ross.

3 MEMBER ROSS: And a follow-up to
4 Senator Jones, and thank you, because that was
5 one of the things I wanted to make sure that we
6 took advantage of, the takeaway from Mayor
7 Landrieu, about the funding that was available.
8 But as I spoke from my colleague from Selma
9 University, President Angion, about forming
10 coalitions and partnerships with the small
11 municipalities, because a lot of times the
12 municipality may have some capacity in terms of
13 grant writing if they have a larger institution,
14 that you partner that way.

15 But I think the key takeaway is all of
16 the ways that we can access these dollars through
17 the federal government, through partnerships.
18 And so I just think that that's extremely
19 important and the point that you've made, if we
20 can build the capacity through those various
21 partnerships, I think it will assist us greatly.
22 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Yes.

2 MEMBER UZZELL: I do have a question
3 with regards to your comment around other forms
4 of communication, and I'm wondering if there will
5 be like an FAQ or some sort of working doc so
6 that we have the accurate information that we can
7 then give to like our MarCom teams to create that
8 content?

9 I just want to make sure that, you
10 know, I had the details about all of the
11 information that we would want to share publicly
12 with our membership or our audiences. Will we
13 have access? I don't want to trust the
14 **11:57:23.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: No. I certainly will.
16 Undersecretary Kvall's very good about that, and
17 I'll make sure we distribute that accordingly.

18 MEMBER UZZELL: I just don't know --

19 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Glover.

20 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: And there was
21 another -- there was another takeaway. I think
22 we want to develop the communication plan for

1 HBCUs to contact their alums and others regarding
2 student loan forgiveness, so they can encourage
3 them to apply. Can we put that, put something in
4 place for that?

5 CHAIR ALLEN: I was thinking about
6 that too. I wonder, Dr. Trent, if we could do
7 some sort of unified forum on student debt relief
8 for HBCUs?

9 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: A virtual forum.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: A virtual forum of some
11 sort that we could sponsor?

12 DR. TRENT: Let me -- let me look into
13 that.

14 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay, okay.

15 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: He said October it
16 would be ready.

17 CHAIR ALLEN: Yeah, October through
18 November 15th I believe.

19 MEMBER HOGAN: Mr. Chair?

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 MEMBER HOGAN: I have a comment.

22 CHAIR ALLEN: Go ahead.

1 MEMBER HOGAN: This is Beverly Hogan.
2 I really, I want to -- it relates to what I think
3 Senator Jones and President Ross was saying
4 earlier. This has more specifically to do with
5 the conversation around the HBCUs' institution,
6 instituting a cyber-focused curriculum. I think
7 that that's really imperative for our
8 institutions, even those with Computer Science
9 programs.

10 If cybersecurity is not part of that,
11 notwithstanding the other curricula, I think
12 we're probably underserving our students.

13 However, I do know, having led a small
14 institution, sometimes the resources to manage
15 these programs are not available. Can we explore
16 opportunities that maybe even in corporations or
17 others might be able to put a professor online or
18 some research place that could help put these
19 programs, this kind of curriculum in place?

20 I know that some of the larger
21 institutions are already doing that, but I do
22 know some smaller institutions are not quite

1 there at this time. How do we, how do we give
2 them the opportunity to offer black students this
3 necessary component of their education?

4 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Hogan, we'll
5 certainly take that away and get back to you at
6 our next meeting. Mr. Deese.

7 MEMBER DEESE: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chairman. I heard, and unfortunately I had to
9 step out, so it's possible I may have missed
10 something. But from the time that I was in the
11 room, I heard several things that I think we
12 should consider.

13 One, I heard that there's a need to
14 understand what the various agencies are and
15 where the money is, and for us to almost have a
16 road map on where the money is and how to get it.
17 Because it's what I worry about is that we may
18 have a finite amount of time to actually have
19 access to the funds, and certainly a finite
20 amount of time to use it.

21 So us having a real understanding of
22 how do we navigate this maze, get to the money

1 and to actually put it to work over the next two
2 years.

3 The other thing that I heard that I
4 think is critical is for us to have a
5 communication and information-sharing and
6 execution of communication and information-
7 sharing, an actual plan and strategy, again to
8 ensure that we get the money to the ground.

9 The last thing that I heard that I
10 think it would be important is for us to
11 literally have a ground game that all the HBCUs
12 are marching to, to make this happen over the
13 next two years. I would love to believe that it
14 will be the next six years, but just in case.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Understood, understood.
16 Thank you for that. Any other comments, key
17 takeaways? Hearing none, we're going to break
18 for lunch. Hopefully we'll all gather back at
19 about 12:45. When we come back, committee chairs
20 be ready for your respective reports.

21 (Whereupon at 12:01 p.m., the above-
22 entitled matter went off the record and resumed

1 at 12:57 p.m.)

2 MS. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chair, Dr. Hogan is back.
3 We will go ahead and restart. I believe Mr. Paul
4 will rejoin in a few minutes, and yes.

5 CHAIR ALLEN: I see you Dr. Abdullah.
6 All right. Before we get started, I want to
7 remind folks that Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms will
8 be joining us around the 1:30 time frame or so.
9 So we'll pause during our Committee reports when
10 she comes. The other piece I believe the Senator
11 wants a point of personal privilege?

12 MEMBER JONES: Yes.

13 CHAIR ALLEN: Go ahead.

14 MEMBER JONES: Thank you Mr. Chair.
15 I want to take this point of personal privilege.
16 Since we are this HBCU Committee and we're
17 talking about the pipeline and the work, I do
18 want to take the opportunity to introduce Michael
19 White, who's --just wave your hand Mike. Mike is
20 a graduate of Florida A&M University, and he now
21 runs one of the only black companies in Florida,
22 million dollar company that gets state funding.

1 And they have now merged from Florida
2 and now they are working throughout the country.
3 His company is called Indelible Solutions, and
4 these brothers are young brothers who have
5 started this company from scratch, graduated from
6 FAMU and I invited him because I told him that
7 this is a group that you should be connected to.
8 So welcome Mike.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Glad to have you,
11 brother. Okay. Let's get into the Subcommittee
12 reports. For the viewing audience, you'll
13 remember that during our last meeting, we came up
14 with four specific areas of interest, and are
15 working aggressively in that regard. We have
16 Subcommittee chairs for each of those areas.

17 I'll remind everyone again:
18 Infrastructure as it relates to physical
19 footprint, and Technology. The second one is
20 Research as it relates to the federal government
21 and corporate partner opportunities. Third is
22 Career Pathways and additional support for

1 students from low resource communities, and the
2 last one is HBCU Preservation and Growth.

3 Those are our pillars. When we think
4 about the presentations we heard this morning, we
5 should be thinking about that in the context of
6 those pillars. When we think about our
7 takeaways, we discussed right before lunch, we
8 should be thinking about that in that context as
9 well. So I know there's only been one, probably
10 one or two meetings of each group during the
11 summer. Dr. Trent and I are thinking very
12 aggressively about how to continue to support
13 each subcommittee as we move forward here.

14 The context though is we owe our
15 report to the President next May, next May, and
16 we are deliberately trying to do more than just
17 review numbers. It really is about putting
18 forward some significant policy positions and
19 recommendations to the President that he can move
20 ahead in his administration.

21 So with that, I'll go in backwards
22 order and start with HBCU Preservation and

1 Growth, which is chaired by Dr. Ross and Senator
2 Jones.

3 MEMBER ROSS: Mr. Chairman, thank you
4 and Madam Vice Chair, for the opportunity to
5 serve as chair of this Subcommittee. I want to
6 thank our committee members, Senator Jones, Ms.
7 Janeen Uzzell, as well as Dr. Kimbrough and Dr.
8 Hogan for their time with this committee. We've
9 met twice already, have had very lively
10 discussions around the preservation and growth of
11 our HBCUs. We kind of spread it around, and Ms.
12 Uzzell, I'm going to allow you to just kind of
13 give a brief overview of some of the things that
14 we talked about before we nail it down to the
15 actual recommendation that comes to the
16 Committee.

17 But again, I thank all the committee
18 members and Mr. Cokley, I'm sorry, for your
19 participation in our, in our committee. Janeen.

20 MEMBER UZZELL: Hello everyone, Janeen
21 Uzzell speaking on behalf of the Preservation and
22 Growth Committee, and then we'll allow other

1 members of the community --

2 CHAIR ALLEN: Can you turn your mic
3 on?

4 MEMBER UZZELL: --of the Subcommittee
5 to speak. A few things that I want to share is
6 one of the documents that we used as a foundation
7 for some of our conversations was a report
8 assessing the collective research and talent
9 activities of the 15 **1:02:07 accredited HBCU
10 School of Engineering.

11 This was a report that we, was shared
12 with me. We use it in reference for just some of
13 the discussions that we had around our
14 infrastructure. Some of what we kind of walked
15 the line on were identifying, if you would, more
16 to focus specifically on historic buildings, on
17 restoring historic buildings, what some of the
18 low-hanging fruit was in terms of initiative on
19 housing, capability statement for the 102 HBCUs
20 as a starting point of reference for the federal
21 agencies.

22 We talked about partnering with an

1 organization to build a database that houses this
2 information that will provide verified
3 information on HBCUs, so that there was a central
4 repository on what we could learn about each of
5 the schools, what the status of the buildings
6 were on campus, and where we might want to
7 immediately identify and target support.

8 Tying the infrastructure needs to
9 housing and academic facilities, deferred
10 maintenance, projects on campus, limited funding.
11 I'm sharing this so that you can understand just
12 the knowledge and understanding that was brought
13 to the discussion. Ultimately, we thought about
14 how we could whittle this down into one
15 statement, that we would then want to do further
16 research on and propose back to the Advisory
17 Council here to move forward on.

18 MEMBER ROSS: Yeah, and thank you for
19 that, and of course as has already been stated,
20 we looked at a lot of avenues that we have to get
21 funding. Of course, we all have access to the
22 Title III dollars and we have access to the

1 various preservation dollars. But all of looking
2 at a way of sustainability. We've even talked
3 about how we retrofit our campuses for
4 individuals with disabilities.

5 And so what we did was look within a
6 process within the federal government that's
7 already set up quote-unquote for HBCUs and
8 funding, and it drew us back to the HBCU Capital
9 Finance Program. All of us, many of us have
10 participated in that and of course just recently
11 been granted, those who were participants were
12 granted debt relief.

13 But we looked at that as the one
14 vehicle that we could go to in order to, and this
15 is for small institutions, private institutions
16 alike, two-year colleges, one source that we
17 could go to to have them look within their
18 policies to find ways that they could further
19 assist HBCUs. So of course we, Janeen, she did a
20 great job of keeping us focused. But I also want
21 to give credit to Dr. Hogan, who is on the line.
22 We put together a policy statement that we would

1 recommend to the full Board surrounding our
2 thoughts about how we could approach the Capital
3 Finance Program.

4 We could talk about creating new
5 strains of funding, but we already have the
6 federal, this federal program in place, which I
7 think could be a vehicle that we could further
8 assist our institutions. So with that, and I
9 know Dr. Hogan is on the line, and she punted
10 back to me. I wanted her to present, but I yield
11 to her punting it back to me.

12 So what I will do is read our
13 statement that we would recommend to this Board
14 for their consideration. "We recognize that the
15 existing Capital Finance Program is the most
16 viable federal program to assist HBCUs in making
17 the necessary capital improvements that are
18 essential to the preservation, growth and
19 sustainability of these institutions.

20 "However, many institutions experience
21 significant challenges in loan approval and/or
22 meeting terms of loan repayment. We therefore

1 recommend that a review and assessment of the
2 policies and guidelines pertaining to the lending
3 practices be performed, to determine if a more
4 fair and equitable policy practice, with
5 consideration for all HBCUs, that's small, large
6 and private, even to the extent of two-year
7 colleges, are indicated."

8 So that's our recommendation, to look
9 within something that's already existing, to find
10 a way to help with the preservation and
11 sustainability of our institutions. The key
12 thing that came out, and it was mentioned by
13 Janeen, was when you talk about student housing,
14 the deferred maintenance, all of those things are
15 attractive now for our young people.

16 Young people are coming to campuses
17 wanting to stay. I know Dr. Breaux was here and
18 I know she has her Living Learning Center and
19 other institutions are doing that, which are
20 attractive things for students to want to seek
21 out our institutions. But I often say that they
22 call us historically black colleges for a reason,

1 and that's because many of the buildings on our
2 campus are historical.

3 So we have to find, we have to find
4 ways to preserve them and also find ways to
5 retrofit them. Truly I believe that with the
6 designation of HBCU, that there should come some
7 commitment from the federal government to ensure
8 that these buildings, federal buildings in my
9 estimation, are taken care of. But with that Mr.
10 Chairman, I yield for any questions. But that is
11 the recommendation of the Committee, and unless
12 my committee members have anything to add, Dr.
13 Kimbrough, Mr. Cokley, Dr. Hogan. If you all
14 have anything else to add.

15 MEMBER KIMBROUGH: Not right now,
16 because it's going to take us into a little bit
17 different direction. But I'll come back later,
18 because there's a point that was made earlier
19 today that sort of falls within preservation, but
20 not in terms of the physical necessarily, but in
21 terms of the ethos of the institution that I
22 think is in jeopardy. But I don't want to get

1 them conflated.

2 MEMBER ROSS: Okay, thank you. Thank
3 you Mr. Chairman.

4 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you Dr. Ross, and
5 thank you to the committee. Is there -- are
6 there any questions before we take up the policy
7 statement, or discussion?

8 MEMBER DEESE: I do have one question.

9 CHAIR ALLEN: Mr. Deese.

10 MEMBER DEESE: I'm not very familiar
11 with the Capital Finance Program, but is it all
12 in the form of loans?

13 MEMBER ROSS: Yes.

14 MEMBER DEESE: Then the question I
15 have is if there are challenges in repaying
16 loans, making the loan payments more affordable
17 is helpful. But considering the gaps, are there
18 ways to just make grants available that don't
19 have to be repaid from the program?

20 MEMBER ROSS: And I would agree with
21 you. That's why I think within this framework,
22 having that entity go back and look at maybe that

1 opportunity within that framework. Maybe there's
2 a separate opportunity to do something to that
3 nature. So that was kind of our thinking with
4 the committee, rather than to create something
5 new.

6 MEMBER HOGAN: And as well, I think we
7 also -- this is Beverly Hogan. We also talked
8 about how we could strengthen the historic
9 preservation grants that are -- and through the
10 Department of Interior that could also be a
11 companion to that. But if they were to review
12 those lending practices and policies and to
13 determine if those, as Dr. Ross pointed out
14 earlier, if there are opportunities to make them
15 more equitable in how they are -- how they are
16 awarded, I think that would be, with
17 considerations for all HBCUs, that would be a
18 step in the right direction at this time.

19 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Dr. Hogan.
20 Dr. Abdullah.

21 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Yeah. Thank you,
22 Mr. Chair. I wanted to just acknowledge the --

1 what the Undersecretary of Education said earlier
2 about the loan repayment program for student
3 loans being tied possibly to income of the
4 students when they graduate. I think that kind
5 of creativity could be the kind of creativity
6 that is looked at the infrastructure level, at
7 the HBCU level. So I just wanted to throw that
8 out there.

9 CHAIR ALLEN: Any other discussion or
10 question? Yes, Mr. Moses.

11 MEMBER MOSES: Yeah. I just wanted to
12 ask if there was any discussion of whether there
13 might be opportunities for program-related
14 investments or social investments by the social
15 investing community to invest in HBCUs? It still
16 would probably be lending, but it might be on
17 maybe a more generous basis than the government
18 program may -- the existing government program
19 may have.

20 The other question I had is whether
21 there might be opportunities to tap into HUD
22 money or some of the infrastructure money, where

1 we might get some of those grants. So we might
2 be able to bring in HUD money to deal with
3 certain aspects of housing or say neighborhood
4 revitalization or something like that that might
5 be relevant.

6 MEMBER ROSS: Yes, and great question,
7 and of course those are separate frameworks. For
8 example, Alabama State University is in a
9 partnership with the City of Montgomery, the
10 Housing Authority, on a Choice Neighborhoods
11 grant, right? Which comes from the Department of
12 Housing. It works you into technical assistance
13 to go for the larger grant, which would be about
14 \$40 million, particularly when you talk about
15 housing communities that are near HBCUs.

16 And so I think that proposition is a
17 great proposition as well in addition to what
18 we're talking about with the Capital Finance
19 Program, as well as when you talk about the
20 community and opportunities within the community.
21 I can't do anything but go directly to the
22 Community Reinvestment Act by our banks and our

1 lending institutions, which I think if there's a
2 push to really have them engage with our
3 institutions, and we're talking to a few about
4 how they can intertwine and be a part of our
5 community development.

6 So I think that those are other tiers
7 that really could contribute to the preservation
8 and growth of the institutions. I agree, yeah.

9 MEMBER MOSES: Thank you.

10 MEMBER GOLDSON: Chair?

11 CHAIR ALLEN: Yes.

12 MEMBER GOLDSON: Thank you. I'd like
13 to make a recommendation with the support of
14 Chair Abdullah that we look at the -- and through
15 the Infrastructure Subcommittee, creating a
16 policy statement around grant funding as it
17 relates to HBCU infrastructure funding. While I
18 appreciate the presentation today around the
19 bipartisan building infrastructure, I think it
20 was important to note that there are 50 percent
21 of the funds that are allocated through grants,
22 but HBCUs have to figure out how they fit into

1 those grants.

2 And so we have to be strategic about
3 asking specifically that that money is pulled out
4 and set aside specifically for HBCUs, instead of
5 trying to work with municipalities to figure out
6 how we can fit in.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: Excellent. Any
8 additional discussion? Mr. Chairman, I toss it
9 back to you. I'm happy to entertain a motion to
10 adopt the policy statement, unless you want to
11 make some updates based on this discussion.

12 MEMBER ROSS: No sir, Mr. Chairman.
13 I would like to recommend the policy statement
14 that comes from the Growth and Preservation
15 Committee as stated.

16 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. Could you read it
17 one more time for the record?

18 MEMBER ROSS: Sure, sure. "We
19 recognize that the existing Capital Finance
20 Program is the most viable federal program to
21 assist HBCUs in making the necessary capital
22 improvements that are essential to the

1 preservation, growth and sustainability of these
2 institutions.

3 "However, many institutions experience
4 significant challenges in loan approval and/or
5 meeting the terms of loan repayment. We
6 therefore recommend that a review and assessment
7 of the policies and guidelines pertaining to the
8 lending practices be performed, to determine if a
9 more fair and equitable policies and practices,
10 with consideration for all HBCUs are indicated."

11 CHAIR ALLEN: There's a motion on the
12 floor. Is there a second?

13 MEMBER COKLEY: Second.

14 CHAIR ALLEN: All in favor say aye?

15 (Chorus of ayes.)

16 CHAIR ALLEN: Any opposition?

17 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: Aye.

18 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: Aye.

19 CHAIR ALLEN: Those are still ayes.

20 Any opposition?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIR ALLEN: All right. A policy

1 statement for the HBCU Preservation and Growth
2 Committee is so adopted. Thank you to the
3 committee and to the chair.

4 MEMBER ROSS: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIR ALLEN: I'll move to the Career
7 Pathways and Financial Support Committee for Low
8 Resource Students. I believe Dr. Adams-Gaston is
9 the chair, and her co-chair, Mr. Hart I believe
10 was on the phone. I'm not sure if he's still on
11 the phone now. Dr. Jay, I'll turn it over to
12 you.

13 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Thank you so
14 much, and I appreciate the time. Our committee
15 is small today because two of our members, who
16 have done just a fantastic job on the committee,
17 Mr. Brett Hart, who is the co-chair but is also
18 the CEO of United Airlines, and Ms. Thasunda
19 Brown-Duckett, who is the CEO of TIAA-CREF or
20 TIAA now, both have board meetings today. So we
21 know what that means.

22 So they have properly prepared me to

1 present the things that we have been discussing
2 and the direction that we intend to go, and I
3 will say that we have had three meetings, one of
4 which was with the chair and co-chair of the
5 Council here of the Board, and that was very
6 fruitful to us to make some other decisions about
7 going forward, particularly with some opportunity
8 to have some support from a consultant group, to
9 help us get some of the things that we need.

10 So if you remember, we broadened the
11 financial support for students and particularly
12 from low resource areas to include issues of paid
13 internships and other industry placements and
14 programs, including mentorships, career services
15 more broadly and collaboration on certain
16 occasions.

17 So we have begun the work of really
18 trying to think about one, outlining our
19 approaches at a higher level, getting some
20 support from consulting groups, a consulting
21 groups that could help us, because what we think
22 is we need to build a strategy that corporations

1 in particular can use, and we needed to
2 understand what the right levels of support
3 needed to be.

4 So we have two main colors. One is to
5 focus on the immediate financial impediments to
6 loan forgiveness and other areas such as loan
7 forgiveness, and then to establish a meaningful
8 connection with corporate and -- the corporate
9 and business world, including opening this to
10 engage with all HBCUs.

11 And so we really have focused on this
12 notion of all HBCUs being at the table, and
13 having the ability to get the support that is
14 needed. One of the ways that we think that may
15 happen is to discuss business connectivity in
16 local communities, as well as some of the
17 business communities nationally. But a lot of
18 places have national players who need to know
19 that the HBCUs and their community are not only
20 viable, but they are critical to their success,
21 and so making those connections is important.

22 Providing engagement support and then,

1 as I said, creating a strategy for providing
2 information and connectivity. So we want to do,
3 what we want to do is to get some is to get some
4 information, and we've been told by our chair and
5 co-chair that we should be able to do this. But
6 things are what are the total number of HBCU
7 graduates over an extended period of time; what
8 are the job placement rates over an extended
9 period of time; compensation data.

10 What's the spread between our students
11 and other students in terms of their compensation
12 coming out of school and their compensation five,
13 ten years out? Because we want our students who
14 are coming from HBCUs to be on par with their
15 peers. We need to understand what the
16 differential currently is. And then where are
17 students going after they leave the university?
18 Where are they going to school or going to
19 graduate and professional school, or going on to
20 the world of work, and what does that look like.

21 And that led us back to what we know
22 is critical for success, and that is that our

1 students need internships, and internships lead
2 to jobs. It's almost 70 percent of students who
3 have an internship or have a job offer
4 nationally. And so what's the differential
5 that's occurring, and the differential is big.

6 One of the things that's happening is
7 in particular students who are -- white students
8 are having much more, a much higher percentage of
9 their internships that are paid, internships
10 versus unpaid. The reverse is true for our black
11 students. They're having far more unpaid
12 internships and far fewer paid internships.

13 We know that that is a setup for
14 disaster, and is in part why there's so much
15 difference between the number of students or
16 percentage of students who actually have had an
17 internship before they leave an institution.
18 That is because our students often cannot afford
19 to take an unpaid internship. Most of them
20 cannot afford to take an unpaid internship, nor
21 should they have to. And so we're really looking
22 at how this differential has led to issues that

1 we need to figure out a way to move the needle.

2 There is some research that suggests
3 that about 75 or more percent of white students
4 come out of their institutions having had an
5 internship of some type, and that number is
6 somewhere around 30 percent for black and brown
7 students. So we're really struggling to get our
8 students to a place where they are -- they have
9 equity as they look at their next opportunity.

10 So we also want to look at what the
11 level of debt is that students are carrying,
12 because that's going to have direct impact on
13 both what kinds of jobs they take and what it
14 costs them to take those jobs. So we're really
15 focused on getting the data and then we'd like to
16 convene a meeting and begin to talk with the CEOs
17 about what are strategies that can be used and
18 are successful for having the companies level up
19 on providing both paid internships, but truly
20 internship opportunities. Not just, you know,
21 come and we used to call it Xerox, but now they
22 just come and, you know, do some work on the

1 computer that may not have meaning.

2 They need meaningful internships that
3 also pay them. So we want to make sure that this
4 process is valuable and inclusive of all HBCUs,
5 and that's our critical goal. So that's where we
6 are to date.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Chairwoman.
8 Any questions for Dr. Adams-Gaston? Yes, Mr.
9 Cokley.

10 MEMBER COKLEY: Thank you so much.
11 You know, one of the things that we're starting
12 to see in the corporate space as it relates to
13 internships is a discussion of what you can call
14 Employee Resource Groups. They're starting to
15 talk about, you know, where are the queer,
16 disabled, black, Asian workers, and integrating
17 into a new structure with that.

18 Is the data that you're looking to
19 collect going to talk about sort of those
20 identities at an HBCU level, or is it going to --
21 are we thinking about sort of how we prepare them
22 for the modern workplace? I'm just curious of

1 what sort of conversation you're having.

2 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: That's a really
3 good question, and one of the things that we
4 talked about is those issues that -- identities
5 that need to be addressed across both the HBCU
6 world and the PWI world. And so that's really
7 good information for us to keep going forward
8 with. Thank you.

9 MEMBER COKLEY: Thank you.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Other questions? Mr.
11 Deese.

12 MEMBER DEESE: Just a comment. Thank
13 you for the report. There might be a significant
14 opportunity to increase the internships for black
15 students at HBCUs with the initiative that's
16 going on for a million jobs in the black
17 community that's been headed by Ken Frazier and
18 some other CEOs, former -- CEOs and former CEOs.

19 I think that there's just a natural
20 tie between that work and what we're talking
21 about.

22 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Absolutely, and

1 we'll pick up that and I'll contact you about
2 that, if you don't mind.

3 CHAIR ALLEN: And for the public,
4 that's OneTen.org. You can get more information
5 there. Any -- yes, Mr. Moses.

6 MEMBER MOSES: I just was wondering.
7 There's a program that just got passed about a
8 year ago in California called the learning-
9 aligned educational program that does exactly
10 this. It's providing for UC, CSU and community
11 college students to get paid internships. I
12 think it's 100 percent for students getting an
13 internship on campus, 75 percent if they do it in
14 a non-profit, and 50 percent with industry.

15 It's only about a year old, so that
16 they're still working out the rules. But I just
17 think it might be an interesting model, because
18 if you could get say a program like that for
19 HBCUs, where employers could get part of the cost
20 of the internship defrayed, that might be -- so
21 that it would entice them to offer more paid
22 internships, and to reach out to HBCUs for

1 students.

2 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Absolutely, and
3 there are states that are moving in that
4 direction. Virginia is moving in that direction
5 for our public schools. We are requesting
6 support from the state for all students who want
7 to have an internship, to have a paid internship
8 before they leave the institution. My view is
9 all of our students at Norfolk State University
10 need to have, must have a paid internship before
11 they leave, because otherwise they're just not as
12 prepared as their peers might be.

13 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Abdullah.

14 MEMBER ABDULLAH: I don't have any
15 questions.

16 CHAIR ALLEN: Oh, you don't. Okay.
17 Any other questions for Dr. Jay? Senator?

18 MEMBER JONES: Sure, I have a
19 statement to give --

20 CHAIR ALLEN: Please.

21 MEMBER JONES: Thank you, and thank
22 you Chair. And thank you Madam President. I

1 also will make a recommendation that there are
2 some states who have internship tax credit
3 programs that give incentives to businesses who
4 take in students to be interns and then hire
5 them. I know Florida has an internship tax
6 credit program. I can't remember if there's
7 another state that has it.

8 I have that information, and I don't
9 mind sharing it with you, because that might be
10 an incentive to get businesses to take interns
11 and hire those interns.

12 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Absolutely,
13 thank you so much. I appreciate that support.

14 MEMBER JONES: No problem.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Ross.

16 MEMBER ROSS: Mr. Chairman, and thank
17 you Madam President for that, for your
18 committee's report, and to piggyback onto
19 Senator Jones, I know and it may be true in
20 Virginia, because I thought we used the model.
21 We passed legislation for an Office of Minority
22 Affairs, and under that Office of Minority

1 Affairs they have an internship program
2 specifically for HBCUs.

3 As a matter of fact, you know, I'm
4 happy to announce that the governor will declare
5 an HBCU Day in the state of Alabama in October,
6 where all the presidents will get together and
7 sign a proclamation. So I think that those type
8 of initiatives will help in garnering
9 opportunities for our students, as well as
10 getting them the paying jobs. Thank you Mr.
11 Chairman.

12 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Dr.
13 Abdullah.

14 MEMBER ABDULLAH: I wanted to comment
15 on that. I just want to say that's a great idea,
16 and we're going to make that happen in Virginia.

17
18 MEMBER ROSS: Well we, we took the
19 office from you all I think.

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHAIR ALLEN: One more comment, Mr.
22 Cokley.

1 MEMBER COKLEY: And one more, not to
2 be outdone. I also want to remind the
3 Subcommittee of the Workforce Recruitment
4 Program, which connects young college students
5 with disabilities with opportunities for the
6 federal government. I happen to know that they
7 are still very excited to include as many HBCUs
8 as possible. So please definitely think of them
9 as a resource as well.

10 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: I love the
11 resources that we're getting. Thank you so much.

12 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Jay, thank you to
13 you and your CEO-inspired committee. Hope you're
14 actually asking for some funds as well.

15 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: Absolutely.

16 CHAIR ALLEN: Appreciate that. We
17 will go to Research, led by our co-chair Dr.
18 Glenda Glover and Lisa Jackson, who is not with
19 us today.

20 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Thank you, Mr.
21 Chairman. Our committee met earlier this month.
22 We have a very specific goal, and that is to

1 enhance the process of universities going from
2 R02 to R01, and those who are R03, bring those up
3 to R02. I wanted those schools in a separate
4 category to bring those up, to increase the
5 research capabilities with the Carnegie
6 classifications.

7 We present that there were 11 HBCUs
8 that are currently classified by Carnegie as R02.
9 So now, you know, just by way of just a little
10 history. There are several Carnegie
11 classifications. There are three for doctoral
12 universities. The first one is R01, which is
13 very high research, and there are 143 schools in
14 that category.

15 The second is R02, which is high
16 research activity, meaning you're doing great
17 research, just haven't made R01 yet, and that's
18 149. Then there are three, which is the
19 doctoral/professional universities that don't
20 have an R01-R02 rating, because they're getting
21 away from the ratings in the R01s and 2's, just
22 trying to do it a different way.

1 Then you have those that have doctoral
2 programs, have advanced, have graduate programs.
3 All those are part of the Carnegie
4 classification. We have -- well, to move from
5 R02 to R01 has become a conversation piece for a
6 lot of the university presidents and throughout
7 the research world, and to do that, we have to
8 have two things.

9 One, the university must have more
10 Ph.D. graduates. Not just Ph.D. programs but
11 graduate students and Ph.D.s, and they must
12 increase their expenditures in the S&E areas, the
13 science and engineering areas. Now I'm saying
14 that because we say research, but it's really the
15 doctoral research. The students who are
16 graduating and doing their research must graduate
17 students.

18 Again, there are 11 HBCUs. So ACE,
19 American Council of Education, ACE, has worked
20 hard with us. They've worked with me. They've
21 talked with the president of Howard and some
22 others, to work on these classifications. So we

1 went through some of the things we had to do to
2 become R01. It's a process, because every three
3 years is when they evaluate schools, and based on
4 the prior year.

5 So you know, you can't do it in a year
6 unless you already have the programs in place,
7 have already taken students through the process
8 and graduated them. So that's where we are with
9 that. The Council, American Council for
10 Education is part of the Carnegie Foundation.
11 That's why it's so important to work with them.

12 But we also have -- Dr. Simmons
13 discussed the AAU and their efforts to work with
14 HBCUs on the classification. This was led by Dr.
15 Frederick at Howard University, and this is
16 housed at AAU and being staffed now. So Dr.
17 Simmons is going to really update us on that at
18 our next meeting. But -- and also TCMCF is
19 working on -- Thurgood Marshall College Fund is
20 working on this, as well as UNCF.

21 So there's a partnership with -- among
22 groups and included there are some corporations

1 that want to do the P3 partnerships, that Apple
2 is one, and Lisa Jackson is the co-chair. She's
3 very helpful and resourceful. Unfortunately,
4 she's out of the country and can't be here today.
5 But Apple has a community education initiative.
6 They have HBCU Square initiative. They have the
7 Propel Center. There's some other initiatives
8 that they have that really will help, that help.

9 And so the main areas of **1:32:45
10 will be social science, humanities, STEM areas
11 and some other areas. So we're going to continue
12 to work with the university presidents, the
13 research officers. Dr. Ted Mitchell has been
14 very helpful. He's agreed to work with us also
15 personally. So we're convening meetings one on
16 one with university presidents, to see where they
17 are in the process.

18 There are some that are further
19 advanced than others, but there is a path that
20 all could take. It just takes -- we have to be
21 patient, it takes time. This can't be done
22 overnight. So that's -- there's no

1 recommendation in this report. It's just a
2 report on what we have done to advance research,
3 as per our directive with this committee.

4 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Dr. Glover.
5 Discussion? Questions? Looks like your
6 committee was very thorough, Dr. Glover, as
7 always. We'll move on to Infrastructure with Dr.
8 Abdullah and Mr. Deese.

9 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Thank you very much
10 Mr. Chair. It's a pleasure to chair the
11 Infrastructure Committee with my co-chair Mr.
12 Deese and our committee members. Ms. Paige
13 Blake, of course the visionary of our committee,
14 and Monica Goldson. In addition to the
15 committee, I've been in conversations just
16 learning more about infrastructure with some of
17 our champions. Representative Alma Adams, Bobby
18 Scott, to just kind of talk about what we can do
19 as HBCUs.

20 So with our committee, I think the
21 first thing we wanted to really just get a handle
22 on, we tried to ask the right questions. I don't

1 think we've come up with answers, but trying to
2 make sure that we can find the right questions so
3 that we can come up with the right answers.

4 So the first question is what is
5 infrastructure, and after extensive conversation,
6 I think we came up with that infrastructure was
7 everything. That is of course physical
8 infrastructure, but it's also technology, it's
9 research infrastructure, endowments and even the
10 kind of operating expenditures that might
11 ultimately lead to faculty and staff
12 compensation.

13 And so it led us to really understand,
14 and that's, I think, where Ms. Goldson was going
15 earlier, is that there's considerable overlap
16 honestly between all of our committees, but
17 definitely between ours and all of them, and so
18 the conversation has been very fruitful for us.

19 So it touches everything. We had a
20 statement that says "Includes but is not
21 limited," which all of you use to make sure you
22 don't leave anything out.

1 The second question was well how much
2 support is needed? And the answer, of course, is
3 a lot. But the real question is how do we go
4 about finding out what "a lot" is? There are a
5 couple of different ways that have been done. Of
6 course there was a study in Tennessee involving
7 Tennessee State, centered around our 1890 land
8 grant institutions and how much underfunding and
9 state match.

10 Well so that those kinds of studies
11 might be something we want to take a look at.
12 There's also another way to take a look at it.
13 There's a university right next to me, Norfolk
14 State University, that at one point was a part of
15 Virginia State University. Thank you very much.
16 But more importantly, there was an institution
17 that's located right down the street from Norfolk
18 State that was also a part of another four-year
19 institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

20 Both of those institutions became
21 independent at the same time, and if you were to
22 look at those two campuses, you would find a vast

1 disparity in infrastructure across those two
2 campuses. So it really is in some ways a case
3 study for the lack of infrastructure at Norfolk
4 State University, and I would argue that there
5 are many other case studies where you could
6 compare an HBCU and a PWI that are in the same
7 location with similar founding dates and similar
8 enrollments, and you can see what kind, what's
9 needed.

10 And so, but generally again, I'm just
11 kind of throwing out some ideas. But the idea is
12 how do we find out how much it is, and how do we
13 make sure that whatever it is, that it -- that
14 we're not answering a question for today, but
15 we're also answering a question for the future,
16 that we don't get behind again.

17 The next question is what would be a
18 potential funding mechanism? One potential way,
19 and this was talked about I think a couple of
20 times today, was using some of the funding
21 mechanisms that exist currently, whether it's
22 Title III or the Title III graduate programs that

1 could possibly use to help institutions go from
2 R02 to R01 or R03 to R02, or 1890 land grant
3 funds.

4 But that it's possible to use the
5 current mechanisms that exist, and fund them at a
6 higher level, so that institutions can get what
7 they need. And then last but certainly not least
8 is what would be a potential funding formula, and
9 I'll only bring up formula. As we heard earlier,
10 there are some infrastructure funds that are out.
11 They're going to be grants that people have to
12 apply for.

13 I think it was something that our
14 committee talked about, was the idea that all
15 institutions should be a part of gaining
16 resources from an infrastructure, additional
17 infrastructure funding, and that while it may be
18 formulas, that those formulas should take into
19 account definitely that our HBCUs are a unique
20 family of institutions with individual needs,
21 particularly when you consider small, private
22 institutions and large state-supported

1 institutions that were very diverse institutions.

2 And so what that formula would be is
3 not necessarily something that we would
4 necessarily proposing, but trying to make sure
5 that it was fair and equitable, and took into
6 account the very unique needs of all of our
7 institutions. I think I've covered most of it,
8 but if my colleagues on the committee would like
9 to add, to make sure that we hit it the right
10 way, I open the floor up to my colleagues.

11 MEMBER DEESE: I think you covered it
12 well.

13 MEMBER ABDULLAH: In that case then
14 Mr. Chair, I yield back to you sir.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you sir. Any
16 discussion? Yes, Dr. Kimbrough.

17 MEMBER KIMBROUGH: So yeah. So I'm
18 thinking out loud as someone who worked at an
19 institution across the town from where Norfolk
20 State is, and I think you raise an interesting
21 point, and I think to link some of these
22 together, you know, how can we encourage some

1 folks to do this kind of research to use that.

2 I tell doctoral students, it's like I
3 don't need y'all to write another dissertation
4 about HBCU presidents, because it doesn't help
5 anybody do anything. But this would be helpful.
6 This could be actionable data. So I think to try
7 to create some partnerships to gather that
8 information for us I think would be important.

9 The second thing, I think we're still
10 going to have to think creatively, because I
11 think the case has been made and I've read
12 several studies about the intentional, unequal
13 funding of state HBCUs. But what do we do about
14 the small privates, because you're going to have
15 people in Congress say that's not -- they're a
16 private institution. I don't have to do anything
17 for those institutions, which you know, that
18 makes up almost half of our sector. Those are
19 institutions that really have got some
20 infrastructure challenges.

21 So I think we've still got to think
22 creatively. I think the case has been made, and

1 I think as was referenced, the work that's been
2 happening at Tennessee, particularly with
3 Tennessee State, is going to be a model. And
4 then with the lawsuit filed in Maryland, that's
5 another model out there. So I think that those
6 are some opportunities that has been documented.

7 There has been some systemic
8 underfunding intentional of state HBCUs, but then
9 how do we provide some of the infrastructure for
10 the small privates? So I don't want to make sure
11 that gets lost, but in terms of the research, I
12 think there's -- like I say, I lived in Norfolk.

13 So I'm, you know, the way that you
14 presented it, that would be a great dissertation
15 topic for someone, and then use that as
16 actionable data to make a case to the state of
17 Virginia to say, or the Commonwealth of Virginia
18 to say look, y'all need to do something about
19 this.

20 So I really appreciate the way that
21 you presented that, and I hope we can entice
22 somebody to help us do that kind of work.

1 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Well I think if I
2 could --

3 CHAIR ALLEN: One second Doctor,
4 because this is for you. Myself and Dr. Ross
5 were at a meeting in Atlanta last week and met
6 the head of the Spencer Foundation, pitched the
7 idea of doing research around infrastructure as a
8 return on investment with respect to HBCUs.
9 She's very interested in doing that work. Dr.
10 Breaux was there as well. So we can follow up
11 really quickly on that point.

12 MEMBER ABDULLAH: I think that's
13 incredible. I think one of the real keys, and
14 that's why I brought up the case studies.
15 Sometimes what we look at is we look at our
16 institutions and what we didn't get, and then say
17 those are the things that we think we should
18 have.

19 But I think that the real way to look
20 at it is what did the institution right next door
21 to me get? I think for private institutions it's
22 even more important than it is for public

1 institutions. When you start to compare Norfolk
2 State to the institution I didn't name, that's
3 Old Dominion University, right, and you look at
4 the difference, it's more -- it's more than what
5 Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston would ask for if she was
6 asking.

7 And so the question becomes for many
8 private institutions through the years, there has
9 been public support and private support. How do
10 we line that up to make sure that we can say
11 okay, Dillard is here and another institution is
12 here, and this is what Dillard should have been
13 funded at over the past 50 years.

14 Even if there's no state money today,
15 there was 20 years ago, right? Maybe. I'm
16 making up stories, right?

17 MEMBER ADAMS-GASTON: And I'd just add
18 to that that it is the case -- so it's not that
19 we're having conjecture about this. It is the
20 case that the federal government has given money
21 to private institutions. They just don't look
22 like HBCUs, and so multiple, I think there are

1 multiple research nodes here that can change the
2 way that we talk about what is possible, because
3 that is not fiction, that is fact.

4 So how do we get both the private and
5 the public to be able to be looked at in a way
6 that is consistent with reality.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Glover, I know
8 you've done a lot of work at Tennessee State.
9 You want to give us your perspective?

10 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Well thank you,
11 and I was going to debate whether I should just
12 tell them what happened in Tennessee State. We
13 just noticed that there were funds going to two
14 land grants in Tennessee. One is University of
15 Tennessee and one is Tennessee State. And so I
16 tell you, it's dangerous when the president of a
17 university is a CPA.

18 So I was going to -- I was going to
19 say why is it that every year, we're making this
20 transfer to cover funding that should come from
21 the state. So my CFO and I worked one weekend,
22 and we said let's figure out how many years this

1 has happened. We went back as far as our record
2 shows. So we said something is wrong here. We
3 need a friend in the legislature to help us.

4 That friend became Dr. Harold Love,
5 Representative Harold Love from the state of
6 Tennessee and he is just -- who's a TSU graduate.
7 His father, 50 years earlier, had raised this
8 same question. But we started putting it in
9 dollars and cents. Here's what we see from the
10 federal government, and here's what the state
11 should have matched. And that number came to
12 some big number, and then he went forward with
13 more research and said the state also has a rule
14 that says, because of the size and the
15 comprehensiveness, UT was getting three times as
16 much as TSU.

17 I wasn't questioning that part, but I
18 was questioning the part that TSU was getting
19 zero, and UT was getting their part. So once we
20 figured those numbers up and put them together,
21 it came to 544 million. An alumni found that
22 out, they were immediately going to file a

1 lawsuit. We said well, you know, as a lawyer I
2 know that only five percent of cases go to trial,
3 it takes so long. Let's see if we can -- let's
4 sit down and talk through it.

5 So we went, we started talking through
6 it and meeting with the right people, and just
7 started building alliances. It wasn't done
8 overnight, because I've been at TSU for ten
9 years. So it wasn't done overnight, but once you
10 start partnering with the right people and
11 getting the right voices out there, you could go
12 really mad and say well look, I'm going to sue
13 you. That wasn't the way we approached it in
14 Tennessee.

15 Fortunately our governor wanted to
16 work with us, and it was the governor who
17 actually put \$250 million in the budget for TSU
18 last year. That was significant.

19 (Applause.)

20 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: And so this wasn't
21 a Republican-Democratic thing. It was about
22 underfunding for a university due to racial

1 issues that we had to address. So they said it's
2 not my fault. I said it's not my fault either,
3 but it becomes our fault if we don't rectify it.
4 So we were able to sit down and talk through it,
5 and Maryland took a different route. They had to
6 file a lawsuit.

7 We didn't take their route, and it
8 ended up saying for infrastructure. So we're not
9 saying it's for the money owed to TSU. It's for
10 infrastructure funding that TSU needs. And so we
11 were able to get almost half the money, and then
12 tack on engineering building to that. So it came
13 to over 300 million.

14 So we're -- and it's all in one year,
15 this fiscal year, meaning it's not going to be
16 spent all this year, but it had to be in this
17 year's budget. That was really important. It's
18 spread over five years and it wasn't like 100
19 this year. It was all in one year, so and that's
20 really -- that's where we are with that.

21 And so we want to just talk to other
22 university presidents, land grant university

1 presidents who are having the same problem, as to
2 how we can structure a model that can be used for
3 others. So we're having a panel this evening, I
4 think 6:00. We're going to go through that so --

5 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Abdullah, I would
6 suggest that we take that as a takeaway with Dr.
7 Glover's support, really getting around the other
8 HBCU presidents with the land grant institutions
9 on that score.

10 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Thank you Mr. Chair.
11 Will do.

12 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. I think that is
13 all of the reports --

14 MEMBER COKLEY: One last --

15 CHAIR ALLEN: Oh.

16 MEMBER COKLEY: One last suggestion
17 for the Subcommittee if I may. In examining
18 this, I would -- I think it will also be really
19 important to look at, especially for the small
20 state HBCUs, what's happened with infrastructure
21 has been removed. So I'm thinking about also for
22 like when the schools stop providing the high

1 schools for their local, like in Denmark, for
2 instance, for Voorhees (phonetic).

3 Secondly, I would -- I've always
4 wanted to study this, I don't have the time.
5 Please consider examination of Howard v.
6 Gallaudet University. Founded at the same time,
7 similar ideals, similar marginalization. I think
8 you could really find something great.

9 CHAIR ALLEN: Great, all right. I
10 believe Mayor Bottoms has arrived, is that right?
11 Ma'am, if you would join the table? Right over
12 here.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. BOTTOMS: Thank you.

15 CHAIR ALLEN: I will give a brief
16 introduction of my friend, Mayor Bottoms, who I
17 spent a great evening with her last spring and
18 her mother over dinner, and found out a lot about
19 her and how much we have in common. She is a
20 proud Rattler, I should start off that way.
21 Somebody said "wow."

22 (Laughter.)

1 CHAIR ALLEN: The incomparable former
2 mayor of Atlanta, is now the distinguished senior
3 advisor to the President for the White House
4 Office of Public Engagement. The most recent
5 speaker, commencement speaker at The Delaware
6 State University.

7 (Off mic comment.)

8 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay, calm down.

9 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: She can't come
10 back because she did too well.

11 CHAIR ALLEN: And just a fine, fine
12 person, professional and lover of HBCUs and all
13 things committed to social justice and equity.
14 So Madam Mayor, always great to see you. Thank
15 you for being here.

16 MS. BOTTOMS: Well thank you all, and
17 it's wonderful to join you. All right, I'm on.
18 So the irony with Dr. Allen and Dr. Glover
19 sitting here, I gave the shortest commencement
20 speech ever at Tennessee State. It was what,
21 seven minutes?

22 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: And got the

1 longest applause we've ever given.

2 MS. BOTTOMS: And then I gave the
3 longest at Delaware State University. I made up
4 for it. That was a good 35 minutes. So
5 somewhere in between 7 to 35 will be my sweet
6 spot.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: The number, right.
8 You've got it.

9 MS. BOTTOMS: So Dr. Allen, you posed
10 the most important question I was going to ask.
11 Are there any Rattlers in the house, and I'm
12 looking for a room for Homecoming. So if anybody
13 has one, please let me know. But it really is a
14 pleasure to be here, especially being here on
15 behalf of President Biden.

16 Thank you all for all that you are
17 doing. As you can probably see, I have a true
18 passion for HBCUs. I am a very proud FAMU
19 graduate, and I have a lot of money going to
20 Morehouse right now with my son. And so I have a
21 very intimate appreciation for the challenges and
22 the opportunities of HBCUs, and I'm so grateful

1 to have a president who calls out Delaware State
2 every opportunity that he gets, to acknowledge
3 the role that Delaware State has played in his
4 -- the entirety of his political career.

5 We know the story of President Biden.
6 It's the story, the stories that are happening
7 across the country with our HBCUs. We are
8 cultivating leaders and we are supporting
9 students, and it has been a tremendous joy for me
10 to see what this administration continues to do
11 on behalf of HBCUs. You all already know there's
12 been a significant amount of money that's been
13 invested into HBCUs, six billion.

14 In fact, that's to help keep students
15 enrolled, emergency grants, discharging student
16 debt, and I remember my first orientation at
17 FAMU, and I'm sure you all will give this same
18 charge, where Dr. Humphries told us to look to
19 the left and to the right, because somebody
20 likely wouldn't be there.

21 But the reality at FAMU, at least in
22 my experience, that was always the case when it

1 was time to pay your tuition. Suddenly you
2 couldn't get -- when you couldn't get a seat in
3 class, suddenly there were plenty of seats
4 because people just couldn't meet the need. So
5 it my sincere hope that with the investment that
6 the administration is making, that those needs
7 are being met with our students.

8 I'll just give you a breakdown of
9 that. Through the American Rescue Plan and other
10 pandemic relief, we provided 3.7 billion to HBCUs
11 since the President's taken office. Also, the
12 Department of Education has provided
13 approximately 1.6 billion in debt relief to
14 HBCUs, as well as another 500 million in grant
15 funding to HBCUs for academic capacity-building
16 and fiscal stability.

17 I was a Pell grant recipient, so I was
18 very happy to see that there -- the maximum
19 amount available to those who are seeking Pell
20 grants has been increased, and also we know that
21 safety is a priority. My understanding, it's my
22 understanding that you all had a briefing today

1 from the FEI and the DOJ. I've not gotten a
2 download on that, but we have been working
3 internally to host our own briefing through the
4 Office of Public Engagement.

5 So if that is the desire Chair Allen,
6 Vice Chair Glover, for us to still do that, we
7 will most certainly make that happen, and we are
8 available and supportive. Lastly, or not lastly,
9 next to last, you all have likely read about the
10 student debt relief. That is going to be a
11 tremendous relief to families across the country.
12 I know for me with my \$31,000 in debt, it would
13 have made a significant difference to have some
14 of that removed.

15 Lastly, through the Department of
16 Education, which I know was represented here
17 today, we've made awards to seven university law
18 centers, Tougaloo College, Fayetteville State
19 University, Coppin State and Fisk University, in
20 relation to hate-fueled violence. We hosted a
21 unity summit last week at the White House. It
22 was very well attended, and very timely, given

1 the challenges that we are seeing with our HBCUs.

2 So all of that to say we are, we are
3 here, ready to continue to work alongside you and
4 do everything that we possibly can to make sure
5 that our students continue to succeed.

6 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIR ALLEN: We hope you have time
9 for a few questions.

10 MS. BOTTOMS: I do.

11 CHAIR ALLEN: Yes. Committee members?

12

13 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Kimbrough.

14 MEMBER KIMBROUGH: I'll just jump in,
15 since my adopted hometown New Orleans, the mayor
16 was here. So this is my hometown hometown mayor,
17 even though she went to the second best high
18 school in Atlanta, Douglas. I went to Mays, but
19 that's okay. I'll ask the same thing --

20 MS. BOTTOMS: And he was my pastor, so
21 that makes up for it.

22 MEMBER KIMBROUGH: Right, that's

1 right, that's right, that's right. So I'll ask
2 you the same thing I asked James Kvall. What can
3 we do to be helpful and supportive of you, as you
4 do the work on behalf of our institutions? We
5 want to be good partners. So what, what kinds of
6 things would you ask of us to do?

7 MS. BOTTOMS: Well thank you for that
8 question. We don't know what we don't know. So
9 by elevating the needs and concerns of our HBCUs,
10 it helps us to be better responsive. And then
11 also, we know that it's election time and in this
12 role I can't get into the details of that. But
13 we do know that elections matter, and making sure
14 that our students are paying attention to what
15 this administration has done to make their lives
16 better, and the support that we're giving HBCUs.

17 I was in a meeting, and this was when
18 the stimulus checks had gone out, and there was
19 -- we were with some students at Clark Atlanta
20 University and some other schools in Atlanta, and
21 one of the students was lamenting about what the
22 Biden administration had not done. Someone asked

1 the question, did you get a check recently, and
2 he said yes. They said well how much was it? He
3 said \$1,400. They said well do you know where it
4 came from? He's like I don't.

5 So I share that because having this
6 President and this administration in office, with
7 the support of Congress, makes a difference for
8 our families and our HBCUs. So those would be my
9 two asks.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Dr. Jay.

11 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Oh no.

12 CHAIR ALLEN: Oh sorry, Dr. Abdullah.

13 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Yes, Madam Mayor.

14 On behalf of my students, if I didn't invite you
15 to campus, I would be in trouble. So we would
16 love to have you at Virginia State University, if
17 you're ever on the road, you know.

18 MS. BOTTOMS: Well, I would love it.

19 MEMBER ABDULLAH: So if you ever hit
20 95, just stop off, you know, stop off in
21 Petersburg and hang out with us for a second.

22 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Boy, this spirit

1 of jealousy --

2 CHAIR ALLEN: He's always biting.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Hey Mr. Chair, I
5 tried to hold my peace. I was going to wait til
6 after, and then you go hey hey.

7 CHAIR ALLEN: I was just trying to get
8 in front of you sir.

9 MEMBER ABDULLAH: Oh I see, I got you.

10 DR. TRENT: Can I just say Mayor
11 Bottoms, thank you so much for being here. We
12 know you have to do a lot to juggle your short
13 schedule to get here. So we do appreciate you
14 coming.

15 MS. BOTTOMS: Well, I'm glad to be
16 here. I really am honored to sit at this table
17 with you all. My mother went to Clark Atlanta
18 University when it was Clark College, and my
19 exposure to the HBCU experience was when she
20 returned back to school, and I would go to class
21 with her and sit on campus and she would take me
22 to the parades on Saturday morning.

1 And you all know all of that matters.
2 Not just that social experience and exposure, but
3 putting in our kids at a young age that HBCUs
4 matter, and that we are the absolute best of the
5 best, not just because we are the best of the
6 best, but because we do so much with so little.
7 And so I am here, willing to roll up my sleeves
8 and work alongside you all, whatever you need to
9 do.

10 CHAIR ALLEN: Well, I just want to
11 say, and I know that to be certain given your
12 career and your commitment. So thank you on
13 behalf of the President's Advisory Board. We're
14 honored to have you as a partner in arms.

15 MS. BOTTOMS: Thank you, thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIR ALLEN: And for those members of
18 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, she can
19 take pictures later.

20 MS. BOTTOMS: I really am looking for
21 a room for homecoming.

22 CHAIR ALLEN: Madam Mayor, if you'd

1 indulge us one more. Our best, our best
2 committee member from Bowie State University,
3 Paige Blake.

4 MEMBER BLAKE: Thank you Chairman.
5 Hi, my name is Paige Blake. I'm the student
6 member of this Board. My question to you is how
7 is your office directly working with
8 communicating with our current HBCU students.

9 MS. BOTTOMS: That's a very good
10 question. This is a conversation that we've been
11 talking about just as it relates to the Office of
12 Public Engagement, that we have to get our office
13 outside of the White House. As you all can
14 imagine, the White House is all-consuming and
15 requires a lot of attention, right Dr. Allen?

16 CHAIR ALLEN: Yes ma'am.

17 MS. BOTTOMS: But the real work is
18 outside of those doors. So if you have some
19 recommendations on how we can better engage, that
20 would be great. We hold stakeholder calls and
21 Zooms and that type thing.

22 We've even talked about, we've tossed

1 around some ideas about doing a HBCU campus tour,
2 you know. It's outside of my pay grade as to --
3 I know how to get to a HBCU. I don't know how to
4 excite students to be interested in us being
5 there.

6 So that's something that we've been
7 tossing around. So I would love to have your
8 input.

9 MEMBER BLAKE: Actually, I might have
10 an answer for you. So earlier when we came back
11 from our lunch, I had actually a poll to our HBCU
12 students on my Instagram, asking them what is the
13 best way for us to communicate with them, because
14 clearly they're not in the meeting. I'm the only
15 student here. So let's see what they said.

16 They said -- let's see. Everyone's
17 saying social media. Someone said Tik Tok,
18 especially IG or Twitter. Email and social
19 media, specifically Instagram, hosting events
20 like career fairs and definitely coming out to
21 the HBCUs where we can actually interact and see
22 you, because it's hard through Zoom.

1 MS. BOTTOMS: Well that's very
2 helpful, because I just finished my stint at CNN,
3 and I am sure that my Morehouse student has never
4 seen me on CNN. But he's seen me on social
5 media, so that's very helpful. Thank you.

6 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, Ms. Blake,
7 and one more question.

8 MEMBER UZZELL: Actually, I'm going to
9 add to what Paige is saying. Hi, how are you.
10 Janeen Uzzell, CEO of National Society of Black
11 Engineers. We have about 40,000 members like
12 Paige, and they say the same exact thing to me.
13 And one of the other things that they say
14 specifically at the HBCUs is they don't have
15 exposure that their counterparts at PWIs have,
16 that no one is coming to the school to spend time
17 and invest with them.

18 They are -- therefore, they're limited
19 in their access of how they're getting this
20 information. They don't know the things that we
21 think they should know, like because this
22 information is available. But they don't have

1 advisors or others that are able to invest and
2 share that with them.

3 So if you are thinking about the tour,
4 I would recommend there are ways that you could
5 connect with any of us, including myself, to help
6 navigate your exposure and the messaging, because
7 I think that our students, what I'm hearing from
8 them is the same, that no one's, no one's coming
9 to actually spend time with us, but time is
10 invested at other universities, and they're just
11 -- they feel like they're missing out or they're
12 not cared for.

13 MS. BOTTOMS: And I would say that you
14 are absolutely right, and I know that because I
15 just finished a fellowship at the University of
16 Chicago this spring, Institute of Politics with
17 David Axelrod. I was blown away at the exposure
18 that the students were able to have through this
19 experience, and in fact I can't remember which
20 school.

21 I spoke with someone about this,
22 asking a question could this be replicated at

1 HBCUs, because through this I was a fellow.

2 So every week, one week I had
3 Ambassador Young and the list goes on, and the
4 people that I was able to bring to the class to
5 give this exposure to students. And I was -- the
6 story comes to mind a lot for me. The first time
7 I rode past the White House, I was a student at
8 FAMU, and we were visiting Howard for something
9 or another.

10 I remember looking at the White House,
11 thinking I want to go in there one day. I wonder
12 how you get in there? Because I had never -- I
13 didn't know anybody who had ever been in the
14 White House, to the White House, near the White
15 House, and I didn't have that exposure.

16 So I think that is extremely important
17 for our students, and I will be happy to share
18 more with you even on the Institute of Politics
19 fellowship that I just completed. If anyone is
20 interested in replicating something like that,
21 even if we did it as a rotating model. But I
22 don't want to take up all the time, but I would

1 love to explore that further.

2 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Thank you
3 very much.

4 MEMBER BLAKE: I just have a quick
5 suggestion. Maybe you could come by Bowie State
6 on October 1st at Homecoming, because we do care
7 about these things, and Homecoming is the best
8 time to come, because you know everyone's there.

9 MS. BOTTOMS: You're absolutely right,
10 and I -- when FAMU was in the MEAC.

11 CHAIR ALLEN: Come on back.

12 MS. BOTTOMS: Bowie State would come
13 down. I kept stats for the basketball team.
14 That was my exposure to Bowie State, and I don't
15 know that people like Dr. Allen lived in
16 Delaware. So there was a whole HBCU there so --

17 CHAIR ALLEN: Well thanks again for
18 your time. We know you're pressed. We
19 appreciate it.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIR ALLEN: Committee members, we're
22 going to press forward. We have a couple more

1 agenda items, and one is Group Discussion and
2 Next Steps. I do want to turn it to Dr. Trent to
3 talk a little bit about time line. We do want to
4 have one more meeting before the end of the year
5 if it's the pleasure of the Committee. We think
6 that's important.

7 I know in our last meeting, we also
8 talked about having it at an HBCU. So we want to
9 raise that as well, but then just want to give
10 you a little bit more color on how we actually
11 get to our final report, our first report to the
12 President. Dr. Trent.

13 DR. TRENT: Yes. So in terms of a
14 time line, I think we, as Dr. Allen said, we
15 talked about having at least another one meeting
16 this year. We talked about at an HBCU or virtual
17 if that, or hybrid if we see that might make more
18 sense for most, for some people.

19 It's my understanding, and I'm looking
20 at Sedika, that our report will be due in April.

21 MS. FRANKLIN: May.

22 DR. TRENT: May, May of next year. So

1 as Dr. Allen mentioned, we're going to be -- it's
2 an annual report, so that would be our first
3 report to this President, I think, right? And so
4 yeah. So Dr. Allen and I have been in
5 conversations on how do we provide more support
6 to the Committee members or Subcommittees, in
7 terms of your recommendations.

8 I think at this point, Dr. Allen, we
9 will take these recommendations and begin to at
10 least craft some, some -- a draft form of what we
11 think we should be included, and at least a
12 portion of which will be included in the
13 President's budget.

14 My hope would be that, as we are
15 working on that over the next couple of months, I
16 would imagine that we would -- our next meeting
17 and our last meeting of the year we might be able
18 to -- or our first meeting of next year, we would
19 be able to come back to you with at least a good
20 draft of what we're thinking about. So that's
21 what we're looking at.

22 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Any

1 questions or additional agenda items that we did
2 not cover today? Ms. Uzzell.

3 MEMBER UZZELL: If we do have time, I
4 wanted to circle back to the conversation we had
5 with the debt and then time lines from there.

6 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay. You can go ahead.

7 MEMBER UZZELL: Go ahead. So one of
8 the last things we ended with with Mr. Deese was
9 around the call to action and the timing of
10 ensuring that our communities, the communities
11 that we have access to, whether it's our
12 universities, our organizations, that we're able
13 to provide information to the students around
14 this debt program, debt relief program.

15 And so what I'd like to ask of this
16 group is how we can back our way into the timing
17 of when -- I think he said there's a window of
18 time, how we backtrack from that and then
19 determine a uniform communication that we can
20 share via our social media, on our websites if
21 we're willing to do that, so that we can be, I
22 kind of like to call it like a shock the system.

1 That's probably not a government term,
2 but that's my term, and it would require us just
3 to follow a time line, to say on these dates
4 we're going to mass mail, mass advise this
5 information, because I think that all of us know
6 people that are eligible and qualify probably
7 right in our family, that will have no access to
8 being made aware of this, and we want to ensure
9 that we do that. Did I miss anything?

10 (Off mic comment.)

11 MEMBER UZZELL: Okay.

12 CHAIR ALLEN: I think we could
13 actually put together a tool kit pretty quickly,
14 because those materials -- lots of those
15 materials have been provided by the White House
16 or the Department of Education. But to your
17 point around time line, we'll follow up on that
18 quickly. And then the other thing I think we
19 want to do is that national discussion during
20 that October 1-November 15th period, that will
21 involve all of our students and alum across the
22 HBCU community.

1 MEMBER UZZELL: So what I might
2 propose, and I'm going to put you on the spot
3 Paige, is probably maybe Paige and I can support
4 running, I guess, running front on understanding
5 the time line, maybe suggesting what the
6 communications could look like from a social
7 media perspective, and then offering just timing
8 on when we could deliver this. Paige, would you
9 do that with me if everyone here agrees?

10 MEMBER BLAKE: Sure.

11 MEMBER UZZELL: I think that we could
12 kind of help do that.

13 CHAIR ALLEN: Excellent. Okay.
14 Hearing no additional comments, I'm going to go
15 to public comment. Any members of the public who
16 would like to address the Committee? I believe
17 we had a sign-up period.

18 MS. FRANKLIN: Mr. Chair, we have two
19 requests for public comment, the first being from
20 Karl Cureton.

21 MR. CURETON: Hello everyone and what
22 a distinguished group this is. Am I on? Yep.

1 Hello everyone, what a distinguished group this
2 is. First I want to of course acknowledge, I'm
3 with the Council Exchange Board of Trade, CEBOT.
4 We represent the 65,000 minority technology
5 companies that exist in the U.S. It's \$100
6 billion industry with 600,000 employees.

7 If you just look at our top 3,000,
8 it's 145,000 employees, with \$20 billion of
9 sales. So I'm coming here as a major corporation
10 to say we don't have a pipeline program with you.
11 But before I start, I'm going to take 30 seconds.
12 I have to acknowledge the Virginia presidents
13 that are in the room.

14 So particularly Dr. Jay, who's a
15 Treasury award winner and just -- I just can't
16 tell you how much I love an issue. Dr. Medullo
17 (phonetic), Dr. Williams and of course Dietra
18 Trent, who I think has just left, who is another
19 Virginian.

20 (Off mic comment.)

21 MR. CURETON: Oh there we go, okay.

22 So I've been asked by NTIA to or our organization

1 has been asked by NTIA, National
2 Telecommunications Administration, to act as an
3 intermediary for the HBCUs with the \$65 billion
4 that is now being allocated. I thought I'd have
5 a heavy lift. Thank you, Dietra. I do not have
6 a heavy lift.

7 There's a trillion dollars on the
8 table right now extra, a trillion dollars extra.
9 We have one Board member, can you say your name
10 sir?

11 MEMBER DEESE: Willie Deese.

12 MR. CURETON: Willie Deeks (sic) and
13 Shevrin Jones communicated about how we should
14 come together in a collaboration. I had the
15 honor of having lunch with President Williams.
16 He spoke about well, how can we create that
17 lightening rod? My request is -- as a comment,
18 my request is can we think about the triple helix
19 this time? Please, the triple helix is
20 government, education and industry.

21 We've got 3,000 companies that can be
22 toyed today. So on behalf of NTIA, I had a

1 conversation of Kevin Hughes on Monday. You're
2 going to meet with him at 11:00 on Thursday I
3 believe, right, with the presidents?

4 Please ask him pressing questions on
5 how they can become the research arm, and how
6 they can encourage the CMC pilot, documents that
7 you all have done, change the name to the state
8 and submit that right now to all of your states
9 as an unsolicited proposal today, on BEAD
10 (phonetic).

11 Just rewrite it, you've already done
12 it, and submit it. That's a great start to begin
13 the conversation to say HBCUs are in the house.
14 I need you to share from industry's perspective.
15 The only thing legally black in America,
16 according to the federal government, are HBCUs.
17 If you wanted to do any kind of program that was
18 targeted to the African-American community today,
19 the only way legally you'd be able to do it is
20 you'd have to bring in HBCUs.

21 You have more power -- I'll end with
22 this. There are 45 million African-Americans in

1 America. There are only 38 million Canadians.
2 We are a nation. We're the most powerful things.
3 All the countries, the Africa diaspora is looking
4 at us and the linchpin of this entire
5 conversation, as I guess everybody's saying their
6 heritage. My grandmother at 2004 was the oldest-
7 living graduate of Spelman College, okay.

8 So you know, inside of this place that
9 we come from this heritage, that now's the time
10 to march over Selma, but it's going to be in
11 contract paperwork. Contract paperwork with
12 incredible partnerships. But this crew here is
13 the lightning rod, and I'll end -- I'm going to
14 walk away and end with this. My wife's a soror
15 of Dr. Glover, and I'll just say -- I'll say --
16 I'm sorry, President Glover.

17 I'll just say that being able to come
18 home and say that I was beside you. She is such
19 a -- she is -- I mean so many people admire you.
20 If you just voice to the Divine Nine, if all of
21 you voice to the Divine Nine to say that we now
22 need to come together and start going after these

1 funds now, the next time we're going have this --
2 Truman was the last time we had this. We built
3 all the highways with this money, by the way.

4 This is that much money. So we have
5 a right to our children, we have a right to our
6 legacy, a right to our future to think about
7 commanding this, start doing the contracts and
8 kick some butt. Can I say that? No, all right.

9 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you, sir. Ms.
10 Franklin.

11 MS. FRANKLIN: Two more, Dr. Allen.
12 Dr. Ann Marie Sastry, CEO, Amesite.

13 DR. SASTRY: Thank you very much for
14 the opportunity to speak. My name is Ann Marie
15 Sastry, and I'm here on behalf of Amesite, which
16 is an artificial intelligence software company.
17 We deliver online learning. More fundamentally,
18 we are partnered with the great, and many of you
19 know Leslie Baskerville, who is a tour de force,
20 a force of nature, and I'm proud and honored to
21 call my colleague and my friend.

22 We have united with a simple mission:

1 To make sure that HBCUs have access to the best
2 quality online learning in the world. The
3 disparities suffered by the HBCUs that have led
4 to a lack of access are palpable and obvious, and
5 I have spent my entire life dedicated to using
6 technology to improve the lives of people.

7 I am a former professor myself, 17
8 years at the University of Michigan, Professor of
9 Mechanical, Biomedical and Material Science and
10 Engineering. I started my first company, sold it
11 for 90 million to a big company in England, and
12 got to meet President Obama at the White House to
13 be honored for that technology.

14 I have lived part of the American
15 dream, and I have seen many people not be able to
16 experience that. Online learning is the fastest
17 most immediate and most effective way of
18 delivering educational opportunities, and yet
19 that access has not yet been there. Leslie and I
20 have had five universities already join of the
21 106 HBCUs and 81 PBIs, and we invite all of you
22 to come join our alliance.

1 We are actively fundraising in order
2 to deliver a system that can upscale not only
3 undergraduates with crucial, crucial life skills,
4 not just the technical skills but also the
5 durable skills, managing conflict, writing a
6 business email. If no one in your family has
7 ever done that, how are you supposed to know?

8 These ride-along skills are absolutely
9 essential to deliver online and with curricular
10 advancements. Additionally, we are very focused
11 on delivering long-term professional learning
12 because HBCUs perhaps most urgently, of all of
13 academe, need to be able to generate sustainable
14 revenue and need to be able to partner with
15 businesses to offer programs that upskill
16 professionals to meet their diversity
17 requirements, which is a way in.

18 So we are honored and excited about
19 this partnership. I'm at this meeting this
20 afternoon, and I invite anyone, any
21 representative from the HBCUs, to please come and
22 talk with me about how we can work together and

1 make an impact. Thank you very much for the
2 opportunity to comment.

3 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Ms.
4 Franklin.

5 MS. FRANKLIN: Last comment from Randi
6 Huntley, Hunley, Deloitte.

7 MS. HUNLEY: Hi. I am Dr. Randi
8 Hunley and I work for Deloitte. We run the HBCU
9 Business Accelerator Program. We've got lots of
10 different firmwide HBCU initiatives like a lot of
11 our companies right now. Not just out for
12 pipeline and talent, but more for sustainability.
13 Closer? Is that better, okay.

14 So I actually just wanted to come up
15 here, because we're actually doing a couple of
16 different things. We work with initiatives to
17 reach out to all 102 HBCUs right now, and provide
18 the HBCU academy trainings where we touch on a
19 lot of subjects, a lot of synergies of which you
20 guys said today.

21 One of you guys mentioned internships,
22 and so that's a topic that we touch. R01 is

1 another topic that I hope to touch on with this
2 agenda. So if you guys have contacts for those,
3 we can use that platform to make sure that it
4 gets out to all 102. If you're not on that
5 distro list, it's free.

6 So if you let me know, I'd be happy to
7 include you on that. It's a combination of
8 industry and government, where we can kind of
9 come together and talk about the infrastructure
10 bill and other things that's on the HBCUs' need
11 for resources. In combination with that, there's
12 a lot of talk right now about internships in
13 industry, and really kind of building that up for
14 pay in a lot of different ways.

15 I want to tell you just one thing that
16 I've noticed, talking to different HBCUs, and I
17 have a feeling everybody in this room probably is
18 experiencing the same thing. If I go look for an
19 HBCU conference, it's hard to find. It's hard to
20 find it in a list. It's hard to find all these
21 initiatives that I'm doing, that y'all are doing,
22 that each HBCU is doing, Google and all these

1 other companies in one place.

2 It's really finding a shared resources
3 site where we can all come together, and it would
4 be much easier for the students to find
5 internships, right? Because we're not battling
6 for internships. We're limited, just like a lot
7 of other companies.

8 So at Deloitte right now, what we're
9 trying to do is really just help support whatever
10 it is that you guys need, in a way that's
11 fundamental and helpful to everyone in this room,
12 right, and everyone who's going to be at this
13 conference.

14 So I just wanted to share that with
15 you guys. So the R01 is definitely a topic on a
16 lot of HBCUs' minds, and I've had them come to me
17 asking how do I become an R01, right? And we've
18 had those open discussions. So reaching that
19 next level, I think, is critical right now. But
20 and beyond that UART (phonetic) that's coming
21 out, right, there's a lot of resources for HBCUs
22 we can use. Thank you.

1 CHAIR ALLEN: Thank you. Are there no
2 other public comments, Ms. Franklin?

3 MS. FRANKLIN: That's all we have.

4 CHAIR ALLEN: Okay, all right. Well
5 thank you all, Committee members. Thank you
6 public for being here. I think we've made some
7 significant progress with a lot more progress to
8 come. So we will see you soon. We hope
9 everybody stays for HBCU Week. Dr. Franklin and
10 Dr. Trent will be dead tired by the end, if
11 they're not already dead tired now. But it's a
12 tremendous, tremendous event. More than 2,000
13 folks will be in and around the Washington
14 Hilton next week. So please engage. With that,
15 I'll take a motion to adjourn.

16 MS. FRANKLIN: Before we adjourn, just
17 one quick comment. For those who are staying,
18 members of the Board, I do have your conference
19 badges right here, so you do not have to go to
20 registration tonight. I have them for you.

21 CHAIR ALLEN: All right.

22 MS. FRANKLIN: For presidents,

1 presidents of the HBCUs, as you came into the
2 hotel when you received your room key, you should
3 have also received your badge, okay. Thank you.
4 Mr. Chair.

5 CHAIR ALLEN: Is there a motion to
6 adjourn?

7 MEMBER ROSS: So moved.

8 MEMBER COKLEY: Second.

9 CHAIR ALLEN: Let it go.

10 VICE CHAIR GLOVER: Have a great week,
11 everyone.

12 (Whereupon at 2:22 p.m., the above-
13 entitled matter went off the record.)

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Date: 09-20-22

Place: Washington, DC

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