

**President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**  
**Meeting of June 21, 2023**  
**Via Zoom**

*A complete transcript is available*

**Advisors present**

Tony Allen, Chair	Beverly Wade Hogan
Glenda Baskin Glover, Vice Chair	Lisa P. Jackson
Javaune Adams-Gaston	Shevrin D. Jones
Paige Blake Quinton T. Ross, Jr.	Walter M. Kimbrough
Willie A. Deese	Janeen Uzzell
Monica Goldson	

**Advisors absent**

Makola M. Abdullah	William F. L. Moses
Thasunda Brown Duckett	Christopher E. Paul
Patrick Cokley	Quinton T. Ross
Brett J. Hart	Ruth J. Simmons
Taraji P. Henson	

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

Dietra Trent, Executive Director  
Sedika Franklin, Designated Federal Official

**Also present**

Ryan Golden, McKinsey & Company  
Michelle Lockey, Event Producer

**Call to Order**

Dr. Tony Allen, Chair of the President's Board of Advisors, and Sedika Franklin, Designated Federal Official, called the meeting of the President's Board of Advisors (PBA) on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to order at 11:36 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Ms. Franklin called the roll and determined the presence of a quorum.

**Vote to Approve the Minutes from April 2023 Meeting**

Chair Allen called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2023 meeting of the Board. After being duly moved and seconded, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Welcoming Remarks**

Chair Allen and Vice Chair Glenda Baskin Glover welcomed the members of the PBA and thanked them for all their work over the last year, particularly regarding the Group Report, which is to be voted on for adoption later in the meeting. Chair Allen reached out to the White House with the goal of presenting the report sometime in September, and contact several companies to design and publish the report after it is finalized sometime in July.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Dietra Trent discussed the White House Initiative's (WHI) long-term planning efforts which is based on the recommendations that will serve as guideposts over the next five years. With the HBCU PARTNERS Act, the WHI has conducted numerous lunch-and-learns which bring together HBCU representatives with individual agencies to receive a firsthand account of their reports to the President and the Congress. The 2023 National HBCU Week conference is scheduled for September 24-28, and Dr. Trent anticipates close to 2,500 in-person attendees with no virtual component planned. The conference theme is Raising the Bar: Forging Excellence Through Innovation and Leadership, focusing on several pillars, including career pathways and economic mobility, infrastructure, Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM), economic development, research, and innovation. Also upcoming is the fifth annual Career and Recruitment Fair. Dr. Trent also noted that Dr. Ruth Simmons has been named as an executive advisor to the incoming president of Harvard University and indicated that the PBA is invited to join her at her inauguration on September 27.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

#### *Infrastructure*

Mr. Willie Deese offered a report on the Infrastructure Subcommittee's work. The focus of the report is the significant and systemic underfunding of HBCU infrastructure. As a result of that extended underfunding, most (if not all) HBCUs have deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs. The report recommends significant investments in HBCU infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on housing. The attendant impact in terms of new buildings, renovation of old buildings, and maintenance is an order of magnitude different when compared to Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs). The report's recommendation for significant funding is also to ensure that new gaps and disparities do not appear.

The other major focus of the report is on technical infrastructure. Close to 85% of HBCUs are in broadband deserts, primarily in rural areas, and the report recommends significant funding to address that issue, as well. Mr. Deese raised the question of how to get recurring funding that does not need to be renewed and reapproved annually or with each subsequent Congress or presidential administration.

#### *Research*

Vice Chair Glover and Ms. Lisa Jackson discussed their report on the Research Subcommittee, which emphasized the importance of enhancing research capacities as HBCUs, as well as investment in research activities and centers. Underfunding has prevented HBCUs from being the key research

arm that they could be, particularly for federal research activities. Increased Title III funding would allow HBCUs to diversify their research streams and attract more talent. Increased flexibility would allow more research to take place and would go a long way towards establishing partnerships and collaborations between HBCUs and other institutions. Ms. Jackson also pointed out that research results will be stronger with more research activities coming from HBCUs, as minorities and minority-serving institutions (MSIs) are often not included in scientific research.

#### *Career Pathways and Financial Support for Low Resource Students*

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston thanked McKinsey & Company for their contributions to the report. There are a number of primary issues the subcommittee considered related to HBCU students' matriculation, retention, graduation, and career success. 83% of African-Americans, by the time they are 30, have had significant experience with discrimination and racism and can come to HBCUs vulnerable from those experiences. Dr. Adams-Gaston therefore pointed out the importance of providing mental health services to students with multiple delivery modes, such as 24-hour tele-therapy. Additionally, about 41% of HBCU students are first-generation college students, compared with about 25% at PWI students, and have significant financial needs. In response, Dr. Adams-Gaston supported the Biden-Harris Administration's proposal to double the Pell Grant award, as well as access to paid internships in the corporate sector with the potential for tax breaks for corporations engaging specifically with HBCU career services programs.

#### *HBCU Preservation & Growth*

Sen. Shevrin Jones described the three recommendations under discussion by the HBCU Preservation & Growth Subcommittee. First was increasing HBCU endowment through the Build Back Better Act to respond to the revenue gap between HBCUs and non-HBCU institutions. Another recommendation was looking at student outcomes, recognizing that they are directly tied to the resources provided to HBCUs. The final recommendation was to continue providing low-cost capital loans for HBCUs through the HBCU capital finance programming. Dr. Beverly Hogan and Dr. Walter Kimbrough commended the committee's report, and Ms. Janeen Uzzell pointed out that HBCUs may have additional consultancy needs and support should they receive a large amount of resources in order to use those additional resources efficiently.

#### **Group Report Discussion**

Chair Allen asked if there were any overall observations from the PBA about the Group Report. Mr. Deese said that one thing he believed could be made stronger in the report is the interconnectedness of all the pillars. Dr. Trent said she would like the report to emphasize the strengths within the HBCU system. She commended President Biden for his commitment in this area.

After being moved by Dr. Glover and seconded by Dr. Hogan, the Group Report was adopted pending noted amendments and recommendations by each of the subcommittees.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Franklin provided a brief chronology of the PBA's work over the last year and offered a projection of activities in the months to come. Sen. Jones forecasted the need for a discussion on

navigating the current political climate for HBCUs. Chair Allen noted that there will not be a September Board meeting, with the hope that the PBA will be able to present its report to the Executive Office of the President in that timeframe.

Emmanuel Guillory, American Council on Education (ACE), discussed how ACE represents the broader higher education community, including both public and private HBCUs. He congratulated the Board on passing the motion accepting the Group Report. Mr. Guillory offered the assistance of ACE as the PBA moves forward with its agenda, noting its work with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, and the National Association for Equality Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), as well as other MSIs.

Dr. Donovan Griffin-Blake, Oakland University School of Education and Human Services, asked what the current situation is with student loans and the pending U.S. Supreme Court ruling on President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan. Chair Allen acknowledged the legal challenges of the plan, but pointed out that there is a public service loan forgiveness program which the PBA has done a lot of work publicizing.

#### **Announcements and Concluding Remarks**

Sen. Jones announced that we will be participating in a State of Black America Brunch at the upcoming Orange Blossom Classic in Miami, Florida. He invited the Board to attend and participate in the weekend. Dr. Kimbrough congratulated Dr. Lisa Jackson on receiving an honorary doctorate from Xavier University. Ms. Franklin congratulated Dr. Goldson on her recent retirement who will now serve on the Maryland State Board of Education. Chair Allen mentioned the Delaware State University philanthropy symposium, which will be held this year with about 50 HBCUs and 12 MSIs from July 30th through August 2nd at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Dr. Adams-Gaston mentioned the opportunity she utilized through the HBCU African Educational Coalition to spend two weeks in Ghana where she met successful study abroad students on the African continent, and recommended it to other members of the Board. Dr. Trent announced a virtual meeting with Commerce Secretary Raimondo on June 29th to discuss the CHIPS Act and how HBCUs can be best positioned to take advantage of those research dollars.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 pm.