

Livingstone College Board of Trustees
Student Affairs and Religious Life Committee
Conference Call
September 16, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.
Dr. Brenda L. Galloway Smith, Presiding

Members Present: Dr. Brenda L. Galloway Smith, Bishop Michael Frencher, Bishop Seth O. Lartey, Dr. Richard Rolle, Jr., Mr. Nigel Alston, Ms. Leslie A. Carter, Dr. Orlando W. Lewis and Ms. Carlee Patterson.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brenda L. Galloway Smith with opening prayer by Bishop Michael Frencher.

Dr. Smith welcomed Ms. Leslie Carter, new Board of Trustee member, and Ms. Carlee Patterson, new SGA president, to the Student Affairs and Religious Life Committee.

Bishop Lartey updated the committee on the assignment of the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont with its willingness to work with the college to assure that the international students have an organization where they can work while they are here. Dr. Lewis, with permission of this committee and the Board of Trustees, wrote a letter to the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont. The organization considered the matter up approved an entity to work with the international students, designating Dr. James Hunder as the point person. The organization will be reaching out to Dr. Lewis to plan a structure for the international students during this COVID-19 era.

REPORT OF DR. LEWIS:

The summer of 2020 has been an eventful experience for the Livingstone College family. The Division of Student Affairs has continuously connected to current and prospective Livingstone students. Below are some of the innovative efforts in which the Student Affairs Division has engaged to assure connectivity as we embrace our “new normal” within the CDC guidelines and best practices for higher education institutions. Our task remains to maintain the continuation of a campus environment that supports and sustains the Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr. Holistic College model.

A Virtual Engagement Task Force was created to enhance the virtual experiences of the Livingstone College student. The task force consisted mainly of Student Affairs staff, and included a Public Relations representative and the director of Alumni Affairs. A Zoom meeting of the NPHC primary and/or on-campus advisors was held on July 23. All nine (9) of the NPHC organizations are currently active and approved for intake at Livingstone College, and each of the nine organizations were represented on the call. The following information was presented: Crisis Management Tips for LC’s NPHC advisors; Adapting/Changing for Survival; Recruitment Disruption Plan; and Marketing HBCU Greek Life Experience.

Career Services staff are working and corresponding with students, employers and college recruiters via telephone, email, Zoom and other video conferencing platforms. In this “new norm,” we are continuing to provide information, resources and services to the best of our ability

virtually. During the summer, more than 197 students were served and 40-plus internships, job opportunities and webinars were shared with students.

Our Counseling Center will be applying Telehealth, which is the use of digital technologies to deliver medical care, health education, psychotherapy and other public health services.

Telehealth is a virtual option that allows for remote access by connecting individual or multiple users in separate locations. We will be working through Doxy.me and META Teletherapy, which is an excellent option for our students to receive 24/7, 365 days a year mental health assistance. META provides a grant to HBCUs, opening the opportunity for mental health services to indigent and insured students.

The Office of Student Activities along with the Student Government Association hosted Livingstone's very first Mister and Miss Livingstone College Virtual Pageant via YouTube live and zoom. This virtual pageant netted more than 4,000 viewers on opening night with the assistance of Livingstone's multimedia team, which is under the Office of Communications and Public Relations. The pageant took place on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, and the winners were: Mister and Miss Livingstone College, Kenyon Blackshear and Eryka Praileau. Dr. Lewis asked the Committee to refer to the report for Royal Court selections.

Mr. Will McCorm of Chicago, Ill., is our White House 2020 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar, majoring in sociology with a GPA of 3.57.

Dr. Lewis also reported that the Interfaith Youth Grant is going well and we are providing workshops in the residence halls that were outlined in the grant. Dr. Lewis thanked the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont with helping and joining forces with us to ensure that the international students are engaged and supplied with what they need.

REPORT OF THE SGA REPRESENTATIVE:

On June 3, 2020, a zoom call meeting was held with the Patterson-White Executive Board about roles and expectations. During this zoom call meeting, the board went over all the duties and responsibilities of each position. With the expectations of each person, there was a contract that was signed by each executive board member, stating that they have read and understand the expectations

During the month of July 2020, the Patterson-White Administration held a Bible Study Zoom call with the topic being "Africa and the Christian Faith." This Bible study was held every Monday at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Those dates were July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. Each Monday had its own topic of study. The five topics that pinned back to the main point were, "The Setting of the Bible," "Where was Jesus from?" "The Spread of the Christian Faith," "The Council of Carthage," and "African Christianity vs. European Christianity." The leader of this Bible study was Justin Wade, executive chaplain.

On July 7, 2020, Ms. Patterson was part of a Zoom conference call with The Poll Defenders, where they discussed a Poll Defender Grant Program. Within this conference, representatives from the Poll Defender Program would come in and explain how the program operates as well as explain a grant application they were giving out to help colleges, specifically HBCUs, get voters a place to vote. Within this conference call, they discussed how to go about applying for the application as well as finding a way to bring a poll to our College campus. After the conference call, Ms. Patterson discussed with Dr. Lewis the application process and her plan. She went forward with filling out the application. Our illustrious Livingstone College was not approved the grant to help bring a poll on our campus.

On Aug. 28, 2020, Ms. Carlee Patterson, along with a couple other HBCU Student Government Association presidents, participated in a Police Brutality March in Washington D.C. During this March, they protested for Black Lives Matter, against police brutality, and for racial equality and overall justice for the black lives that were taken such as George Floyd. They marched the streets of Washington D.C., until they got to the Lincoln Memorial.

Dr. Galloway-Smith extended her commendations to Dr. Jenkins and his administrative staff for anticipating and preparing for the arrival of students. It appears that any concerns and anxiety of students leaving home to go to college have been addressed. It seems that Livingstone College is doing a fine job.

Mr. Nigel Alston asked Ms. Patterson if there was anything the alumni could help with as far as students' needs such as masks, hand sanitizers and other types of things that would be helpful. Dr. Lewis will generate a list of needs and send to Mr. Bruce Stanback, the incoming Livingstone College National Alumni Association president, to send to the alumni chapters across the country to help our students so they can send goody bags.

Hearing no other business at this time, the meeting was closed with prayer by Bishop Seth Lartey at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam T. Rush

Miriam T. Rush, Executive Administrative Assistant
Division of Student Affairs