



Black Student Experience Workgroup 2.0

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2021 | 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees:

Tri-Chairs

- La-Tonyette Buckley Student, UCR
- Jamal Myrick, Ed.D. Director, African Student Programs
- Shonté Thomas Associate Dean of Students of the Ethnic and Gender Centers

Workgroup Members

- Dominique Beale Admissions Recruiter, Community Engagement & Outreach, Undergraduate Admissions
- Allura Davis Admissions Counselor, Community & Engagement Outreach, Undergraduate Admissions
- Alton Carswell Case Manager, Health & Wellness - Case Management
- Keona Henderson President, UCR Black Alumni Chapter
- Raquel Rall, Ph.D. Faculty, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education
- Charles Woods Student and Member National Society of Black Engineers, UCR

Administrative Support

- Andrea Patrick Administrative Assistant, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

● **BSEWG 2.0 Declaration**

- The working group discussed the declaration statement that was disseminated via email. The committee discussed sending it in the future via email to capture the campus community, such as alumni and community members. The point was noted. Dr. Myrick will follow up and look into the matter.
- Committee members discussed suggestions to the declaration. The declaration's email could include a statement addressing what the group means to the campus and why the group exists.
- It was also suggested that the reporting structure of the working group could be noted in the document. Additionally, the declaration could include language regarding the history of the working group involving BSU and other organizations that were engaged in matters that led to the group's formation. Tri-chair Shonté Thomas noted that context such as the group's history can be included in the executive summary of the BSEWG 2.0's final report.
- The working group will review future drafts. Working group participants are asked to provide input and be mindful of associated deadlines.

● **Subcommittee Dates**

- Representatives from each subcommittee can add dates that their respective groups have met and will meet to the meeting date log located in the shared drive.

● **Review the Campaign for College Opportunity's February 2021 report: "The State of Higher Education for Black Californians"**

- Attendees discussed key takeaways from the report, ways in which the contents of the report can help inform the work the work of the committee, and related topics regarding Black students in higher education. Discussion highlights:
 - Only two of five Black high school graduates are eligible for admission to UC or CSU institutions.
 - Some practices at for-profit institutions contribute to unequal levels of debt among Black students. This decreases generational wealth and social mobility.

- As SAT and ACT tests become less relevant, what tools are being used to help get Black students prepared for college?
- Black scholars can benefit from taking preparatory classes prior to their first term to better focus their time during the quarter on credit-bearing courses.
- Consider amplifying Umoja resources among transfer students at UCR to increase awareness among this population. Create greater awareness of Umoja resources on campus in general.
- Tri-chair La-Tonyette Buckley noted that information regarding available resources can be overwhelming for students; consider offering it in a way that is more easily digestible.
- In addition to campus-wide orientation events, a custom orientation for Black students can help, as the program can provide a plan to help them navigate resources and more.
- Tri-chair Shonté Thomas noted that BSEWG 2.0 should be mindful of resource allocation and funding requests. Given these matters, what is the request? She noted that she can share highlights from a pre-fall quarter cohort model and program that could be advantageous at UCR.
- It was suggested that there could be an effort to work with other groups in the campus community that are working toward similar goals to make the same ask or partner in some way.
- To foster success, give scholars information regarding resources, but also provide support until they graduate.
- Tri-chair Jamal Myrick noted that an assessment given during the winter quarter revealed that Black scholars struggled with matters such as financial need, mental health, isolation, and housing insecurity.
- It was suggested that more awareness among the campus community about the topics revealed through the survey is needed.
- If a future survey is administered, it should be short, suggested Tri-chair La-Tonyette Buckley.
- Working group members can also meet individually to hear the experiences of Black scholars. It was also noted that data can be collected via forums such as workshops.
- **Undergraduate Admissions Discussion & Collaborative Efforts**
 - Tri-chair Shonté Thomas will develop a list of entities in the campus community that are working on matters related to Black student success. Working group members are asked to send names of committees/groups to her for inclusion on the list.
 - Tri-chair Shonté Thomas noted that some communication has been exchanged with Dr. Jennifer Brown, Dean of Undergraduate Education.
 - Additionally, plans are to invite the Undergraduate Admissions committee charged with working on BSEWG recommendations to the May 2021 meeting. About 25 minutes will be allocated for dialogue and Q & A. Committee members are asked to send questions/discussion topics to Shonté Thomas.
- **Subcommittee Breakouts**
 - The three subcommittees gathered in breakout rooms to discuss priorities, implementation, meetings, and logistics. They reconvened to share key points.
 - **Admissions and Recruitment** – It was noted that feedback from Black scholars can be obtained from students during breakout sessions during the virtual Highlander Day event. ASP, UGA and BCOE contacted more than 1,000 admitted Black scholars.
 - **Auxiliary** – The Subcommittee is working on the Campus Safety Task Force response. They will look for people to share any and all feedback prior to the response going out.
 - **Campus Climate and Student Success** – The subcommittee shared key takeaways from their discussion.