

UTC Chancellor's Multicultural Advisory Council
February 6, 2018

MINUTES

PRESIDING: MS. STACY LIGHTFOOT, CHAIR

I. Welcome

- Chairwoman Lightfoot welcomed all who were present and began the meeting by asking everyone to stand and sing the National Black Anthem in honor of Black History Month.
- Chairwoman Lightfoot recognized the CMAC Emeriti members present:
 - Joyce Hardaway
 - Reuben Lawrence
 - Gerald Mason
- Chairwoman Lightfoot reported that Anthony Byrd, District 8 Chattanooga City Council representative, will be serving on CMAC.
- Dr. Linda Frost, Dean of the Honors College, was asked to introduce Sherese Williams, who has joined UTC's Honors College as the Assistant Director.

II. Remarks and Introduction

- Chancellor Angle thanked everyone for attending and introduced Dr. Trae Cotton, the new Vice Chancellor for Student Development, who joined UTC on February 1st.
- The Chancellor gave a few campus updates which included:
 - Freshmen enrollment for Fall 2018 is up over 40%.
 - A new residence hall with 600 beds will be opening in the Fall.
 - UTC hosted a Community Listening Session on January 31. We received good feedback and hope to have more community members attend future Listening Sessions.
 - Football Signing Day will be held on February 7, 2018 at Finley Stadium.

III. "O, King – A Tribute to the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

- Dr. Mo Baptiste, Executive Director of Student Development, provided an overview of the "O, King" program which took place on January 22 and introduced:
 - Dr. Jonathan McNair – Creator of the "O, King" event
 - April Shaw – UTC student and artist of the "O, King" artwork

IV. Recap of October's "Conversations Across Differences"

- Jonathan Butler discussed CMAC's focus on how to deal with difficult issues openly and effectively. He then presented the predominate themes from the October meeting discussions. These were:
 - Themes for Question 1 – How do you have conversations across differences?
 - Respect
 - Encouraging curiosity
 - Sensitivity to tone
 - Learning to acclimate to uncomfortable conversations
 - Providing safe spaces to encourage discussion
 - Question 2 – How do we support and prepare students to have and negotiate conversations across differences?
 - Supporting students
 - Creating an open dialog allowing all to feel comfortable to share opinions
 - Providing trained facilitators to assist with the conversations
 - Question 3 – How do we support and prepare faculty to have and negotiate conversations across differences?
 - Have training and support for faculty
 - Provide safe classroom environments for discussions

V. "Communiversality: What does it mean and how do we do it?"

- Dr. Cotton described how the idea of "Communiversality" evolved over the years. The concept is based on the university building trust with the community. Trust is built by sharing and coming together and developing relationships.
- Difficult conversations need to take place and the university needs to be open to them and think differently. Conversations need to be "real" and direct.
- We, as a university and as individuals, need to focus on being a part of the community and determine how we can be a vital part of Chattanooga. Students need to be taught to be community minded and encouraged to make positive impacts where they live.
- Dr. McNair asked Dr. Cotton if he would be interested in assisting with advising the Music Department in developing a Community Engagement course.
- Gladys Pineda-Loher asked Dr. Cotton to collaborate with Chattanooga State with issues involving the ESL community.

VI. Call to Action and Announcements

- Thursday, February 8, 6:00pm – Film screening of *Rev. Martin Luther King Jr: A Personal Portrait* followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, George Silano. Additional information can be found at <https://blog.utc.edu/news/2018/02/lost-mlk-documentary-screen-utc-black-history-month/>.
- Dr. Mo Baptiste mentioned the Professional Speaker Series at Orchard Knob Middle School kicked off on February 2nd with CMAC member, Veronica Peebles, being the first speaker. There are several other CMAC members participating and Dr. Baptiste encourage all CMAC members to get involved. For additional information, please visit <https://blog.utc.edu/news/2018/02/speakers-series-introduces-new-career-ideas-middle-school-students/>.
- Monday, February 19, 5:00pm – UTC is hosting a Visual History Film Screening of *Whose Streets?* with the filmmaker, Sabaah Folayan. This film “is an unflinching look at the Ferguson Uprising.” For additional information, please log onto <https://blog.utc.edu/history/2018/02/06/whose-streets-utc-visual-history-film-screening-with-the-filmmaker-sabaah-folayan/>.
- Saturday, April 28, 1:00pm – The Links Debate Tournament, which includes Brainerd High School, The Howard School, and Tyner Academy, will be held in the University Center. Please contact Joyce Hardaway at joyce7410@aol.com or Laurie Melnik at laurie-melnik@utc.edu for additional information.
- Chairwoman Lightfoot challenged the attendees to reach out and help others.

VII. Closing

- Chairwoman Lightfoot thanked everyone for attending and made note that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th. This will be a joint meeting with the Chancellor’s Roundtable. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM and the meeting will begin at 12:00 Noon. Meeting location will be announced at a later date.

In attendance:

CMAC Members

- Jonathan Butler
- Chris Earl
- Rachel Emond
- Nicole Gaines
- Joyce Hardaway
- Ron Harris
- Bassam Issa
- Troy Kemp
- Reuben Lawrence
- Stacy Lightfoot
- Travis Lytle
- James Meyers
- Patrick Miles
- Gladys Pineda-Loher
- Manny Rico

UTC Students

- Kevin Finch
- April Shaw
- Megan Sloan

Special Guests

- George Calhoun
- Vanessa Jackson
- Donna Lawrence
- April Lomax

UTC Staff & Faculty

- Dee Dee Anderson
- Steve Angle
- Mo Baptiste
- Richard Brown
- Trea Cotton
- Sue Culpepper
- Rosite Delgado
- Terry Denniston
- Robert Dooley
- Yancy Freeman
- Linda Frost
- George Heddleston
- Jim Hicks
- George Hynd
- Michael Jones
- Theresa Liedtka
- Tara Mathis
- Jonathan McNair
- Joanne Romagni
- Bryan Rowland
- Stephen Rumbaugh
- Valerie Rutledge
- Mark Wharton
- Sherese Williams
- Jill Woodruff