

PROVOST COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS MEETING

Notes from the 11/3/2022 Meeting. Members present were: J. Bronstein, B. Green, J. Hall, P. Turner, & X. Woodley. Interim Provost, D. Campbell presided just to ask the group how it wanted to proceed.

HISTORY

The Provost Council on African American Affairs (PCAAA) started in 2018 under Provost C. Parker and Pres. J. Floros.

The group wanted: An African American Minor--which is now in place; Half-time Administrative Assistant (for now a Student Worker—Natalie); a Budget (received); a permanent Black Programs Director (Active Search underway); Black Programs to move to a new space (done); and a VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion who the group could collaborate with (hired).

AFRICANA STUDIES (AFST) MINOR & FACULTY

The Africana Studies (AFST) Undergraduate Minor was moved from History to TPALS in the College of Health, Education and Social Transformation (HEST). Rick Marlett is the Dept. Head. Jamie Bronstein said History would welcome the Minor. BEST wants Africana Studies in Borderlands and Ethnic Studies (BEST)—the group that plans to soon move to HEST.

The AFST Minor includes 18 credits of coursework, including four required courses and three electives.

The PCAAA group continues to emphasize that the program not be included with Criminal Justice or general Ethnic Studies. The group wants the curriculum to be clearly delineated as Africana Studies.

Erica Reid is a Visiting Assistant Professor. (She may or may not be remote).

The AFST Minor and future curriculum needs a dedicated Tenure-Track/Tenured faculty line member who will build up the program with students and additional faculty, as needed, over time.

Some of the PCAAA group seem to like the affiliation with TPALS in HEST. Instead of being in TPALS, others would like to see the AFST Minor become part of HEST alongside Sociology rather than be part of TPAL.

BLACK PROGRAMS

Black Programs has an Interim Director (Bobbie Green). The Program is now searching for a permanent Director.

Black Programs now has a nice space in Corbett with some wonderful activities planned.

The Budget for the Black Programs Office is \$20,000-\$25,000. More will be needed in the future as the group further organizes.

PROVOST COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS (PCAAA)

When asked if the PCAAA would like to move under the Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, those present unanimously decided they wanted to meet with V.P. Scholz and inform her that while PSAAA wants a strong partnership with the VP of DEI Office, they wish to stay where they are as an Advisory Group to the Provost Office at NMSU. In addition to the NMSU Provost Office Leadership/Facilitation, the PCAAA group wants to continue discussions of having our Community College counterparts (such as the Community College VPAAAs) as annual rotating Facilitators/Leaders of the PCAAA group.

QUESTIONS:

1. If the group is going to stay in the Provost Office and is system-wide, would you want the Provost/Sr. Assoc. Provost or the person heading Academic Affairs on each campus (NMSU main, Alamogordo, DACC, and Grants) to rotate Facilitator/Leadership for the group annually; or decide among themselves who should have the role for a given academic school year?
2. Would the group want to establish meetings at least once a semester—then other times depending on circumstances?
3. Does the group wish to rename itself to reflect a broader system wide character? (EX: “NMSU System-Wide Council on African American Affairs;” “System Wide Council on African American Affairs;” etc., or keep the current title? It is **Group’s** choice.
4. The group seemed to favor the Africana Studies Minor remaining in HEST either in TPALS or on a stand-alone basis in the College of HEST, for now. Who will be designated to let the faculty member primarily teaching the courses, and the BEST faculty know **in writing** that this is a strong preference?

Another meeting will be set as soon as possible by Cindy Garrett for the PCAAA. The group can discuss any edits to this document, answer the questions posed; then discuss PCAAA’s plan for a strong, collaborative relationship with the VP of DEI’s office.