

MEETING MINUTES

Senate Bill 350/Chapter 417, Acts of 2018 Morgan State University -- Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity

Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Morgan State University, Earl Graves School of Business, Room 412
4100 Hillen Road, Baltimore, MD 21218

PRESENT:

Task Force Members: Ms. A. Adar Ayira, Dr. Raimee Eck, Dr. John Hudgins, Rev. Kobi Little, Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, Delegate Edith Patterson

Subcommittee Members & Observers: Ms. Kelly E. Crawford, Mr. Joshua Harris, Mr. Darnell Ingram, Mr. Dayvon Love, Glenda Lindsoy, Ms. Avis Ransom, Officer Raul Rivera, Detective Miguel Rodriguez, Officer Brandon Smith-Saxon, Mr. John Milton Wesley, Dr. Kellee White, Dr. Carlos D. Williams,

IUR Staff: Dr. Deborah Bailey, Dr. Tracy R. Rone, Dr. Raymond Winbush

TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Imam Earl Al-Amin, Dr. Noel Braithwaite, Rev. Florence Ledyard, Dr. Jane Lincove, Ms. Annette March-Grier, Dr. Joanne Martin, Dr. Brian Smedley

1. CALL TO ORDER

The third meeting of the Maryland State Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity was convened at 6:49 p.m. by Rev. Kobi Little, Chair. The start of the meeting was delayed due to the involvement of the dinner caterers in a motor vehicle accident en route to the meeting and the need for two Task Force members who were initially present in appearance or by phone to leave due to a work emergency or illness. These departures resulted in lack of a quorum and consequentially, the need to reorder the published agenda.

2. GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Greetings were extended to task force and subcommittee members, as well as guests by Ms. A. Ayar Adira and Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam who also shared reflections from session held during the November 9, 2019 Legislative Black Caucus Session. Greetings were followed by introductions.

3. DISCUSSION ON RECONCILIATION

Rev. Kobi Little led a discussion on reconciliation. He opened the discussion by showing “What is Reconciliation?” a brief video clip of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (accessible online at <http://www.trc.ca/reconciliation.html>). The video was accompanied by a handout “Principles of Reconciliation,” which was distributed to those present at the meeting. (The principles can be accessed online at (<https://ricochet.media/en/844/10-principles-for-truth-and-reconciliation>)). Rev. Little highlighted Points 3, 4, and 5 from the accompanying list and invited conversation about the relevance of the video and the points raised to the anticipated work of the Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity.

Ms. A. Adar Ayira called attention to the need to look ahead to policy changes or outcomes. Senator Nathan-Pulliam shared employment anecdotes and the impact of the workplace on health. Dr. John Hudgins reflected on his experience as an observer the prior day in Richmond Federal Court and raised the challenge of how to get the opposing sides of the Maryland HBCU lawsuit on the same side. Dr. Ray Winbush’s comments focused on the need to have conciliation before there is reconciliation, and he raised the issue of how to repair damage that results from policy. Dr. Carlos Williams raised the need to be inclusive with other groups that have been disenfranchised by systems. Senator Nathan-Pulliam also discussed the importance of the diversity of the Task Force’s composition. Mr. Josh Harris identified the need for public dialogue about economic impact. Ms. Avis Ransom called for the need to examine intergenerational growth and development. Mr. John Milton Wesley raised the need to discuss reparations in the context of reconciliation and to consider action steps necessary for economic justice. Delegate Edith Patterson described some of the challenges rural Marylanders face and emphasized the need for the Task Force to take a critical look at rural areas and not just urban areas.

4. BREAKOUT INTO SUBCOMMITTEES

Rev. Kobi Little directed meeting attendees to breakout into subcommittees. The four subcommittees were:

Public Health -- Dr. Raimee Eck

Education -- Delegate Edith Paterson

Sociology -- Dr. John Hudgins

Workforce, Economics and Social Justice -- Ms. A. Adar Ayira

5. Report of Subcommittees

Subcommittees reported out very briefly and stressed the need to continue discussion at the next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Tracy Rone shared the link for the website of the Task Force on Reconciliation and Equity. <https://www.morgan.edu/iur/taskforceonreconciliationandequity>

7. ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Kobi Little adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.