**General Chapter Meeting**

**February 6, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Jeremy Sanford, Mable Scott Austin, Rose Austin, Lee Elder, André Hite, Jr., and Darryl Pilate. There were 29 members present via video and phone.

Meeting was called to order by Darryl Pilate at 10:35 AM.

**Prayer by Mable Scott Austin.**

**Approval of the Agenda.**

Motion was made by Mable Scott Austin to approve the agenda and second by André Hite, Jr. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes will be approved at the March meeting.

**President’s Report by Darryl Pilate.** Darryl acknowledged the awesome things going on with our local and National Alumni Chapter. The Chapter took care of the basketball team when they came to Houston. We will hear the latest on the Gala today. We have been working with National on our 501©3 approval. Updates will be made at the March meeting. The football season will kick off as planned on February 21. The Fall season schedule is out for 2021. Texas Southern is on our schedule for the Fall schedule. Darryl requested that everyone provide info for COVID-19 vaccination in the chat so we can share the resources with the Chapter. We are getting more local students who are interested in JSU because of the hype surrounding the University. We want to take advantage of the momentum and vamp up our recruitment efforts.

**Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Mitchell Harris/Thaddeus Reed.** Presented by Thaddeus Reed in Mitchell Harris’s absence. For the period of January 1 to January 31. Thaddeus submitted the Treasurer’s report indicating a beginning balance of $11,452.27 and an ending balance of $12,241.56. All funds were earmarked for the following: Designated Student Activity Fund $3,372.50; 2021 Gala: $5,863.95. The Treasurer’s report is accepted for future audits. The Chapter will send $500 to the Women’s Basketball team.

**Membership – Kimberly Blasingame.** Kimberly presented that we are at 79 financial members. Kim is working with National regarding issues with two members, but it should be resolved soon. Kim thanked everyone for paying their dues and their participation in the Chapter.

**Student Recruitment – Jeremy Sanford.**  Jeremy reported that he has reached out for information for a STEM focused college fair. Jeremy requests that those alums working in STEM fields contact him.

Community Service – LaKrystal Foster. In LaKrystal’s absence, Darryl reported that there is a charter school that reached out to request some JSU paraphernalia. More info will be provided at the March Chapter meeting.

Mable Scott Austin reported the following upcoming events sponsored by the Suburban Sugar Land Women (SSLW):

January 30 – A voter registration training. Those who complete the training will be certified to register voters for two years.

February 27 – A virtual HBCU event from 11 AM – 12 PM in recognition of Black History Month.

March 27 – A Women’s History Month event from 11 AM – 12 AM.

April 27 – A financial literacy for college students and young adults.

Darryl noted that if anyone is aware of any events that the Chapter can participate in to reach out to, he and LaKrystal.

**Athletics – Thaddeus Reed.** Thaddeus reported that the women’s basketball team defeated both Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern University. They are currently both ranked Number One in the SWAC. The women’s basketball team has only lost one game and the men’s basketball team is currently undefeated. The first football game of the season with Coach Prime will be on February 21. The game is a Red out and will only be at 25% capacity; season tickets are encouraged. As previously reported, there will be a fundraiser where donors will gain naming rights in the Athletic Department locker rooms for $2500. Donors will have five years to pay towards the total amount. All sports are included in this fundraiser. The COVID-19 relief fund is being pushed to improve the sports facilities. If you have season tickets, you are given priority to enter the stadium. Seating will only be on the even number rows. Thaddeus thanked the Chapter for the $500 donation to the women’s basketball team and thanked everyone for their support of the University.

**Director of Development – Dr Rose Austin.**

2021 Gala

We are revisiting an in-person event. The Gala was scheduled for the May 21, 2021, at the Hilton. Dr. Austin reviewed the hotel guidelines from the Hotel. The Executive Board (EB) is hesitant about the event given that COVID-19 is still prevalent. The EB is having trouble filling their purchased tables. Since most individuals will not have been vaccinated by the time of the Gala, the EB is recommending going to Plan B - a virtual event. The deposit will roll over if we rebook the in person Gala for 2022.

Motion was made by Dr. Rose Austin to change the Gala to a virtual format for 2021 and rebook the in-person Gala for 2022 and second by Yolanda Owens. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Dr. Austin will go back to the committee and plan a virtual event. The theme will remain the same since it is our 45th Anniversary. We will keep the theme, honorary chair, honorees, and our $45,000 goal. The committee will be extended to include individuals with expertise with virtual Galas. A full package will be presented at the March meeting. Dr. Austin reviewed the commitments thus far.

2021 Election

Dr. Austin made the call for the six officers for the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 term. All positions are open. To be eligible you must be a financial member as of February 6, 2021. The information regarding officer requirements and the nominee verification form was sent out to the Chapter before the meeting. At the March 6 meeting, the nominees will be presented, and nominations can be made from the floor. Voting will occur electronically April 12 – 17, 2021 via the secure platform Election Runner. Voting can be done via phone or computer. Voting information will be emailed to each eligible voter.

**Unfinished Business.**  Darryl proposes that we revise the distribution of the scholarships. There is $30,000 currently in the endowment that needs to be dispensed to students. A meeting will occur before the March meeting to discuss the revisions. Darryl made a call for volunteers to be on the committee. The goal is to come up with a plan to help students when they have urgent financial needs. In the past, the Chapter has received calls from students in need.

**New Business.** None.

**JSUNAA Officer Remarks.**

**Tarita Davis - JSUNAA First Vice President.** Tarita provided an update on the Millions of Eyes on Excellence we currently have 4.3 million of the 5 million goal. The Alumni Participation Rate (APR) has increased to 8.35% with a 10% goal. The Orange Blossom Classic will be held on Labor Day Weekend in 2021. The host hotel has been updated to the Hilton Ft. Lauderdale Beach Resort; details are forthcoming. Tarita provided some potential planned activities. Once details are finalized, the information will be provided. Regarding the Spring Homecoming weekend, Tarita noted that Alums will not be permitted on campus. During the Fall Homecoming week, the Presidential Inauguration will occur. More details will be forthcoming.

**Je’Juan Gray – JSUNAA Regional Vice President.** Je’Juan reiterated the importance of giving, regardless of the amount, to help with the APR. It is a critical factor when corporations or individuals are selecting which Institutions to make large donations to. We are in the middle of the National Board Election season. No one submitted for the SW Board seat. Each Region was slated to elect a regional board member; only one region has an eligible candidate who has submitted the required paperwork. A regional caucus will be held to fill the empty seats.

**Good of the Order.** Darryl presented some upcoming events: football games, upcoming meetings, and the voting period.

Several group photos were taken.

Darryl asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned – 11:55 AM**.**