**General Chapter Meeting**

**March 6, 2021**

**Board Members Present:** Jeremy Sanford, Mitchell Harris, Kimberly Blasingame, Yolanda Owens, LaKrystal Foster, Rose Austin, Mable Scott Austin, André Hite, Jr., and Darryl Pilate. There were 30 members present via video and phone.

Meeting was called to order by Darryl Pilate at 10:36 AM.

**Prayer by** Darryl Pilate.

**Approval of the Agenda.**

Motion was made by André Hite, Jr. to approve the agenda and second by Mitchell Harris. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Motion was made by Dr. Rose Austin to approve the January meeting minutes and second by Andre Hite, Jr. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Dr. Rose Austin to approve the February meeting minutes and second by Mitchell Harris. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

**President’s Report by Darryl Pilate.** Darryl introduced the special guest Wendell Fountain, Admissions Counselor, from the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at the University. Wendell is the contact for student recruitment for this market. Wendell presented information about the efforts of the Office to recruit despite the pandemic. The goal remains to recruit students and provide information for students to decide to attend JSU. The pandemic hit during the peak of the recruitment season and everything shifted to virtual. The Office uses a Customer Relationship Management Tool/Software (CRM) – admissions pro.

For the Houston area, in 2020, 136 students applied and 50 were admitted; in Dallas 86 applied and 41 were admitted. To date for Houston, we have 259 applicants, 91 have been admitted, and 17 intend to enroll. Dallas has 200 students that have applied, 82 have been admitted, and 22 intend to enroll. These numbers are only for first-time Freshman. Wendell expressed the need for the Chapter to assist with recruitment efforts and expressed his thanks. The Chapter will have an opportunity to participate in the Alumni Start recruitment training, members are encouraged to participate.

Wendell can be reached at [Wendell.l.fountain@jsums.edu](mailto:Wendell.l.fountain@jsums.edu) and 601-979-2461.

**Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Mitchell Harris/Thaddeus Reed.** For the period of February 1 to February 28. Mitch submitted the Treasurer’s report indicating a beginning balance of $12,241.56 and an ending balance of $12,510.68. All funds were earmarked for the following: Designated Student Activity Fund $3,382.50; 2021 Gala: $6,163.95. The Treasurer’s report is accepted for future audits.

**Membership – Kimberly Blasingame.** No changes have been made to the report since the last meeting.

**Student Recruitment – Jeremy Sanford.**  Jeremy is putting processes in place and an official presentation to present at the Texas student fair. Jeremy is participating in the Houston HBCU virtual college fair today from 10 AM – 2 PM. Jeremy is working to get an official presentation from the University. Any recruitment events should be sent to Jeremy who will then make sure we have appropriate representation either from the University or the local Chapter.

**Community Service – LaKrystal Foster**. No report.

**Athletics – Thaddeus Reed.** Not present. No report.

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

2021 Gala

Dr. Austin reported on the now virtual Gala. The following will remain the same: the theme, date, honorary chair, honorees, ticket prices, sponsorship levels, and entertainment (either pre-recorded or live). The tax deduction amount for each ticket changes because the food cost is now $30, and the entertainment cost is $10 for a total of $40. The benefits of the various sponsorship levels and the revised tax deduction levels were presented. Attendees will receive a Pappas restaurant gift card valued at $30 which will be distributed to guests in advance. The guest lists contact info must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the Gala; the Zoom log-on info will be emailed to guests and should not be shared. The meal can be picked up prior to the Gala to eat during the Gala or can be used after the Gala; the certificate does not expire.

In honor of our 45th Anniversary, we want to do a few special things. First, we want to give a student a full one-year tuition scholarship, totaling $8,8270 in addition to the smaller, regular scholarships. Second, we will hold a giveaway for the paid chapter membership at the general level which is valued at $100.

The draft program was presented; specific details are still being worked out. There will be a silent auction that runs throughout the Gala. The auction items that are needed were presented to the Chapter. The projected expenses total $7,450 and the projected profit is $76, 550.

The motion was made by Dr. Austin to give one student a full one-year tuition scholarship totaling $8,270 and second by Vanessa Wallace. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

2021 Election

The slate of nominees was presented along with the requirements for the positions. Nominations were taken from the floor. The nominees will be contacted by Dr. Austin to complete the required paperwork.

**Unfinished Business.**  None.

**New Business.** None.

**JSUNAA Officer Remarks.**

**Tarita Davis - JSUNAA First Vice President.** The Mid-Winter Council meeting will be March 13, 2021; the deadline to register is March 8, 2021. An alumni directory is being created; alums are being contacted to request their permission to be included in the directory. The host hotel for the Orange Blossom Classic has been finalized and details have been sent out. The inauguration of our President Thomas Hudson will occur doing the Fall Homecoming Week in October.

**Good of the Order.** The Mid-Winter Leadership Development Council Meeting will be on March 13, 2021. The next General Chapter Meeting will be April 3, 2021, the voting window will be April 12-17, 2021.

Several group photos were taken.

Darryl asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned – 11:52 AM**.**