

Financial Asset Development Committee (FADC)

Final Minutes

August 08, 2024

1:08 pm – 3:05 pm

Hybrid meeting: Zoomgov Meeting

Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605921661?pwd=NUMzV1E5RXNDZHVhY0FwYkYzcGZFQT09>

Committee Members Present: Beverly Colwell, Amy Eaton, Tony Hall (Chair), R. V. Kuser, Dreama McCoy, Kathie Smith, Dr. Madhav Swaminathan, Ginger Yarbrough.

Committee Members Absent: Dawn Allen, Katherine Boeck, Rep. Terry Brown, Dr. Rebecca Putnam, Sandra Terrell, Anna Ward, Carla West.

Staff in Attendance: David Ingram, Juanita Hooker, Talley Wells, Letha Young

Guests: Dr. Tamira White, Dr. Baiyina Muhammad.

Introduction:

Tony Hall (Chair) called the committee into session and welcomed the FADC members both in-person and virtual. He started the meeting with a short ice breaker.

MOTION: Tony reviewed the May 2024 meeting minutes and called for a motion to approve those minutes. R.V. Kuser made a motion to approve the May 2024 minutes, and Beverly Colwell seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Tony moved to the initiative updates.

Initiative Updates:

HBCU IPSE Pre-Planning Initiative

- Dr. Baiyina Muhammad and Dr. Tamira White joined the committee meeting to provide the committee with an update on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (HBCU IPSE) Initiative. This initiative is scheduled to end September 30, 2024. The goal was to increase and grow awareness around Inclusive Postsecondary Education in NC. The council single-sourced the NC Black Disability Network to provide the one-year training and information. Efforts were launched to provide training to the administration and interested staff of 11 HBCU campuses on how to establish a program on these campuses.
- There was some inquiry whether EIPD (formerly Vocational Rehabilitation) can assist with student funding, and EIPD Director Kathie Smith clarified funding would assist with student cost directly. Also, the student would need to be an EIPD consumer, and the university would need to be vendored with the agency.
- Dr. Tamira White pointed out other costs would include staff, operating the program, and peer mentors who must be paid. She noted that according to Tennessee State University,

operations cost could run up to \$750,000 a year. TPSID can provide up to \$500,000/year funding. ThinkCollege does not provide the cost for start-up.

- Dr. Muhammad suggested the use of graduate students to fill some of the staffing gaps and feels the program needs at least 4 staff to start. They would need a visionary with grant-writing and research skills. Dr. Muhammad recommended at least \$110,000-\$130,000/year in funding. She reported Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) and Winston Salem State University (WSSU) demonstrated the strongest interest.
- Talley explained the planning periods would be funded for \$60,000 for each of the 3 semesters.
- Dr. White reported the indirect costs and other IT needs at a university, including the IT infrastructure, applications, enrollment, new laptops and equipment needs of the professors – so not just the salary.
- Talley asked whether the staff is part-time and are there additional funders?
- Dr. White reported that Tennessee State used Disability program staff. They would seek additional funding from Disability Innovation Funding (DIF) grants, innovation grants. Talley asked what then is the plan when NCCDD Stops funding – what happens?
- Dr. Muhammad asked that the funding coming through the Council be significant and the piloting program will influence other funders and inspire other schools to develop programs.
- Talley reported we have thought about whether we can fund one of two schools, but it is not enough money to fund two schools. They can build a blueprint. They can write brief White Papers of lessons learned at each year. Is there a bridge to work in consult, considering the work of with Dr. Muhammad with her gained knowledge and expertise? Dr. White is also learning a lot in her other job as she heads up the new NC State IPSE program.
- Dr. White – “regarding sustainability, the energy we felt at these HBCUs: ECSU was already looking for ways to fund an IPSE; I don’t think that motivation will be an issue to sustain.”
- Talley – Kelly Crosbie will check with Tennessee State folks for funding support. We want to help support sustainability.

We are now looking at releasing the RFA to support **one** HBCU to receive funding from the Council to initiate an Inclusive Postsecondary Education program in their college or university. The draft was sent for review by the Council on 08/05/2024. This draft outlines the next step to fund 6 months for the first year, then a second full year for planning and development. This would be followed by a 2-year pilot to support the sustainability of this IPSE program, bringing the support to 4 years. The council reserves the right to consider a 5th year for the pilot with 100 percent matched funding from the university to sponsor the stabilization of the program. Dr. Muhammad and Dr. White were released from the meeting.

Committee Voting:

The committee did not have a quorum to vote but attending members unanimously recommended sending the document to the full council for a vote.

A second decision was proposed to sponsor a **Bridge Consultant** to support the contractor in the development of the IPSE program for the first 6 months.

Financial Update:

- David Ingram provided the financial report and update. He reviewed the Federal Fiscal Year as of May 2024. (A presentation to the Full Council was made on the morning of August 08, 2024. Updates were provided on the Financial Asset Development initiative funding, reminding everyone we have until September 30, 2024, to finish the budgeted spending. Following the break and the dismissal of Dr. Muhammad and Dr. White from the meeting, the committee resumed conversations on potential funding.

Discussion on Investment Ideas:

- Tony Hall invited discussion on Financial Asset Development investment topics for NCCDD.

There was discussion of the proposed objectives and deliverables of the HBCU IPSE program, as well as the value of having an HBCU IPSE program. The goal is to make this affordable as possible. There was agreement that there needs to be more IPSE programs in the rural areas. We will need to question and address 'why would it fail?' In the past, students have expressed interests, but the barrier was the cost. Further discussion on potential student grant access to cover the cost. The Council acknowledged monies set aside for K-12 does not support the IPSE programs.

With the 15 IPSE programs launching at the community colleges in the fall and funding granted to NC State and NC Central University to fund IPSE programs, we hope to still open opportunity for others.

Beverly Colwell referenced the man in the HBCU IPSE initiative video who said he just wanted to be given the chance. We need to be good stewards. She recommended we endorse Dr. Muhammad to be the Bridge Consultant to support building the project.

- The committee did not have a quorum to vote but attending members unanimously endorsed and recommended to send the document to the full council for a vote.
- In order to give the program the best opportunity for success and sustainability, the committee agreed to add the 5th year of funding, provided the contractor was in agreement to match funding at 100%.
- RV Kuser made the motion to make a conditional plan for a 5th year funded, seconded by Kathie Smith and unanimously agreed to take to council for the vote.

Kathie Smith introduced the www.DB101.org website, which provides web-based tools and information on disability benefits, work incentives, and employment planning unique to North Carolina. The intent is to provide disabled individuals basic understanding of the impact of earned income on Social Security benefits and other public assistance and to connect them to a trained benefits counselor for additional information. The planned launch of the website is March 2025. Kathie reported EIPD is asking for input for the developers, focus groups, opinions, and funding. She prosed about \$10,000 as a funding source from the Council. Amy Eaton also proposed a letter for support from the Council should go a long way.

Wrap Up:

Tony Hall reminded the members that the next quarterly NCCDD Council Meeting will be a hybrid meeting and will be held on November 6-8, 2024, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cary. Tony thanked everyone for their input and participation.

Amy Eaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. RV Kuser seconded. The vote was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.