

**University of Waterloo
SANKOFA THINK TANK
Meeting Minutes**

Date: 15 June 2023
Time: 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Location: NH 3308 & MS Teams (Hybrid)

Attendees: Jean Belo Klamti, Ndagire Brendah, Lauren Burrows, Tracelyn Cornelius (co-chair), Rodrigo Costa, Felicitas Eguny, Conrad Giresse Tetsassi Feugmo, Ola Idris Ali, Ryon Jones, Isaiah Marcus, Madisson McKellar (secretary), Marcia Smellie, Tray Stay, Moses Tetui, Jessica Thompson, Dr. Anita Taylor, Dr. Christopher Taylor (co-chair), Yasmin Wallace, Jennisha Wilson (co-chair)

Regrets: Miguel King, Eden Mekonen, Lionnell Smith

AGENDA

1. Chairs Remarks [Wilson]

Wilson welcomed Think Tank Members and provided an opportunity for folx to introduce themselves. She noted that this group is an intentional collective of black Waterloo students, staff, faculty, and community members.

2. Terms of Reference [Idris Ali]

Idris Ali reviewed the Sankofa Think Tank Terms of References including its principles and mandates. She noted the Think Tank will specifically support action 242 of the Scarborough Charter, which focuses on anti-black racism at higher-educational campuses. Idris Ali shared that there were 28 membership invitations to participate in the Think Tank, but that this group will be responsible for managing its membership, ensuring that it includes Black individuals from all walks of life.

3. Scarborough Charter Inter-Institutional Forum* [Wilson]

Wilson shared that a key focus for the Think Tank in 2023 will be helping to plan the Scarborough Charter Inter-Institutional Forum, which will be held jointly by Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier in Spring 2024. She clarified that University Relations will be responsible for the actual logistics and execution of the Forum, but that this group is intended to give Black folx an opportunity to determine what the contents of the conference might look like, how we can create space for Black folx in a thoughtful way and how Waterloo might be a model to other institutions in the areas of anti-black racism. Wilson added that the Think Tank co-chairs are cognizant of capacity and that their goal is to give meaningful pathways for people to engage without overburdening them. She noted that the key takeaway from this meeting was for members to reflect on their own capacity and determine how they would like to be involved in this work moving forwards.

Dr. C. Taylor shared that the Inter-Institutional Forum has a steering committee that will determine main areas of focus for the conference, and that once Waterloo has an idea of the basic framework of the conference, this Think Tank will inform the rest of the activities, speakers, engagement opportunities, etc.

Members discussed: Waterloo and Laurier committing equal budgets and the hope for Laurier representation to be present at the next meeting; the opportunity for Waterloo to showcase its anti-black racism efforts and set the tone for other institutions; a requirement for each institution to bring a minimum of three student attendees from undergraduate and/or graduate programs; the need to have other institutions share their anti-black racism efforts at the forum as a way to keep institutions accountable; the desire for the forum to be action oriented with a suggestion of having groups workshop speculative, fictional or future orientated scenarios with groups of both similar and/or different status or roles; free attendance for students, as well as travel support or bursaries; in-kind donations from affiliated colleges for residence; suggestions on conference content such as Afrofest, Bring on the Sunshine, Laurier Music Festival, Black Film Festival, high school recruitment, trade shows, and public health specialist speakers.

Smellie and Idris Ali agreed to collaborate on community members to invite to the next meeting.

4. Next Meeting [Wilson]

Wilson thanked all attendees for their time, energy, and passion, noting that the EDI-R Office will follow up with materials and a date for the next meeting.

15 June 2023

Madisson McKellar
Administrative Officer