

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

Date: 20 July 2023
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Location: NH 3308 & MS Teams (Hybrid)

Attendees: Emelia Assigbey, Dr. Jean Belo Klamti, Ndgairé Brendah, Lauren Burrows, Tracelyn Cornelius (co-chair), Rodrigo Costa, Ola Idris Ali, Jermal Jones, Madisson McKellar (secretary), Eden Mekonen, Marcia Smellie, Tray Stay, Dr. Christopher Taylor (co-chair), Dr. Moses Tetui, Jennisha Wilson (co-chair)

Regrets: Darren Harry Blaine, Iannois Carroll-Woolery, Conrad Giresse Tetassi Feugmo, Celine Isimbi, Ryon Jones, Miguel King, Isaiah Marcus, Mary Oladejo, Lionnell Smith, Dr. Anita Taylor, Jessica Thompson, Jane-Frances Ugbelase, Yasmin Wallace

AGENDA

1. Chairs Remarks

Wilson welcomed members and provided an opportunity for introductions. She reminded members that the immediate focus of the think tank is to conceptualize content for the Scarborough Charter Inter-Institutional Forum that will be hosted jointly between UWaterloo and Wilfred Laurier Universities in May 2024.

2. Minutes of the 15 June 2023 Meeting

The minutes were accepted as distributed.

3. Scarborough Charter Steering Committee Update

Dr. C. Taylor provided an update that the Inter-Institutional Conference dates have been finalized as May 8-10, 2024. He noted that May 8th, 2024, would be centered around opening events and business meetings, May 9th, 2024, will be run by UWaterloo and May 10th, 2024, by Laurier. He added that the two universities need to be intentional and collaborative with the content of the conference so that there is consistency for attendees. Dr. Taylor shared that a planning committee comprised of senior leadership counterparts from UWaterloo and Laurier has been formed to work on logistics in terms of registration, sponsorships, communications, finances etc.

Cornelius shared that she has been working with communications folx from Laurier and that they plan to share the news of the joint conference August 1, 2023, on Emancipation Day. Smellie suggested that Waterloo attend an Emancipation Day event in Cambridge on August 1st to share the news with community members.

4. Content Discussion

Wilson shared a document outlining a summary of the four areas of the Scarborough Charter (Black Flourishing, Inclusive Excellence, Mutuality, Accountability) and prompted members to consider an overarching theme for the conference as well as tangible ideas for the day Waterloo is responsible for. She noted that members should consider broad, expansive, and outside the box ideas, ensuring we consider the broad audience of students, staff, faculty, and community members that will be in attendance. Members broke into groups and discussed the following thoughts and ideas:

- Emancipation and Reparation
- What happens after anti-Black racism?
- Embedding Afrofuturism and Anti-Black racism concepts into teaching on campus
- Creating community and dismantling structures of different programs
- Implications of the notions of race
- Need for Bilingual Elements/ASL (Smellie to send Idris Ali Paulene Janke contact info)
- Creating Black spaces on campus
- Education for teachers around race, gender, intersectionality
- Connecting Universities to Communities
- Community sessions could include health, education, technology, innovation
- UWaterloo as an anchor institution in the community
- Ancestral Teachings; Other ways of knowing and doing; Decolonizing
- Incorporating identity into your work
- Supporting Black students to excel
- Critical Incidence Response and supports for Black students dealing with violence
- Intersectional Anti-racism teachings and learnings
- Black leaders and care
- How to create space for institutions without Black studies
- How whiteness shows up in our leadership
- Holding space for commitment of resources
- Black Joy means creating spaces and models that work
- Moving beyond performative action
- Addressing power dynamics in rooms
- Holding safe spaces for different intersections
- Caucus for senior leaders
- Education as Freedom
- Workshop on theories of intersectionality, racial capitalism, and Black feminist thought
- How Black thought and leadership does not just benefit Black people
- Celebrating Black joy with food, dancing, trade shows, barbershop, tailor
- Session on the importance of Black autonomy: exploring settings on campus (classrooms/labs/leisure spaces)
- Catering from diverse Black food vendors
- Providing resources in the program material

Wilson thanked members for their contributions and asked that they fill out the shared planning document for the next meeting, where the ideas will be used to form consensus around themes.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 24, 2023, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

20 July 2023

Madisson McKellar
Administrative Officer