AN-MSI Executive Awareness Committee Minutes
San Juan, PR
February 25, 2002

Meeting Participants: William Aguilar, Dar Bales, Wendell Barbour, Alson Been, Carrie Billy, Andy Conrad, Derrick Dauphinais, Joe Douglas, Ramon Harris, Eric Jensen, Jim Kennelly, Karen Korth, Kelvin Lawrence, Tim McDonald, Major Madison, Margaret Massey, Cardell Orrin, Alex Ramirez, Milton Santiago

Major Madison started the meeting with a Power Point presentation on what his committee accomplished from the last meeting in October. He will send his report to Valerie. He was followed by Eric's oration on identifying the important salient features of what AN-MSI is doing on communicating those accomplishments to the cohort, EDUCAUSE, and other groups that need to know what we are doing - in other words, branding our organization.

Next, I gave a brief summary on the current activity of the Executive Awareness Committee. I will no longer coordinate campus visits. Dave Staudt will assume that responsibility. I discussed briefly the two campus visits at Haskell and St. Augustine College, and planning for Executive Awareness workshops at the annual meetings for each of the communities. The one at HACU went well and our next target is NAFEO.

The rest of the meeting was an open session to generate ideas and objectives to accomplish over the rest of the project. They are as follows:

1. Nine ideas for projects from the NLII meeting in San Diego.

2. The next Executive Awareness session at the 2002 Annual HACU Conference will be on IT Best Practices. Alex will coordinate this effort.

3. Prepare a brochure on Executive Awareness activities. Wendell will take the lead in preparing this publication.

4. Give the UTEP AN-MSI 6 videoconference sessions on Distance Learning (after they are put in a CD format) to each President in the AN-MSI project. Executive Awareness will work with Henry on this distribution.

5. There was considerable discussion on committing AN-MSI dollars for grant activity on specific projects that will have value for the participants in the AN-MSI cohort. The Title V grant that the HSI group in Southern California was awarded, led by William Aguilar of CSUSB, is the type of funding support from AN-MSI that Executive Awareness/Resource Development felt was a good model to follow. Ramon, Wendell, Major, and Alex will coordinate this effort, working with Dave for funding once grants and projects are identified.

6. Hold Executive Awareness workshops at the annual meeting for each community. Wendell, Ramon, and Alex will coordinate these workshops.

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At the request of Dave Staudt, the Executive Awareness and Resource Development Committees were combined.

Wendell Barbour and I discussed Dave’s request. Wendell proceeded to open the committee meeting by pointing out that he was outlining his comments, expected me to do the same, and then report to the group.

Instead of outlining, I made a report that included the following:
Recent White Initiative on HBCU Meetings led to the appointment of Dr. Ernest L. Holloway, President of Langston University to President Bush’s White House Initiative on HBCUs advisory board. There are other HBCU presidents obviously serving on this board, the point being this provides AN-MSI the opportunity to provide input to the White House on policy in technology & education. I was asked at that same meeting to serve on NAFEO's advisory board on technology. This provides another opportunity to influence policy in this HBCU organization. Also at these meetings, we met with Congressional representatives, some of whom were told about the technology needs of HBCUs.

In addition to the comments I made, Eric Jensen was asked by me to present his efforts to help us "brand" AN-MSI by introducing products & services we have developed and performed. Eric & I have stayed in touch since we’ve left San Juan, as I promised him, to further disseminate information regarding what AN-MSI is doing and solicit financial support from both public & private sectors.

Discussion also took place in both the HBCU community meeting as well as the Executive Awareness & Resource Development Committee meeting concerning an accounting of monies spent to date as well as establishing a clear policy on funding future proposals coming from the community groups. I think this is extremely important, and until we do this, there will be internal issues, which if left unresolved, will continue to cause us problems.

Major E. Madison, Jr.