



COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS

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U.S. Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

“Closing the Gap: Addressing Declining Black Male Enrollment at HBCUs and Colleges”

Date: March 31, 2026

Time: 3:00 p.m. EDT

Location: Virtual

Chair: U.S. Rep. Frederica S. Wilson

Commission Director: Marik Xavier- Brier

Estimated Duration: 1 Hour

I. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

5 minutes

Chair Wilson

- Call meeting to order
- Welcome Commissioners, staff, and attendees
- Opening remarks on meeting theme

II. Roll Call & Adoption of Agenda

2 minutes

Chair Wilson

- Roll call of Commissioners
- Presentation and adoption of agenda
- Motion and vote

III. Framing the Theme: “Closing the Gap”

10 minutes

Chair Wilson



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- Historical significance of HBCUs for Black male achievement
- Overview of enrollment decline trends and contributing factors
- Setting the framework for discussion and action

IV. Director's Report: Findings & Operations Update

10 minutes

Director Brier

- Preliminary findings: enrollment decline, gender gap, financial barriers
- K-12 pipeline failures and college readiness disparities
- HBCU institutional challenges and competition from PWIs
- Workforce and cultural pressures on Black male enrollment
- Preliminary recommendations: targeted financial aid, HBCU capital investment, pipeline programs, policy reforms, national awareness campaign
- Operations and dissemination update

V. Commissioners' Clarifying Questions on Report

5 minutes

All Commissioners

- Clarifying questions on Director's Report findings and recommendations

VI. Focused Discussion: Reversing the Decline in Black Male Enrollment

10 minutes

Director Brier (Staff Data Overview – 5 min) / Commissioners (Targeted Discussion – 5 min)

- Staff data overview: enrollment crisis, gender disparity, HBCU financial vulnerability, completion rates, cost of inaction, state disinvestment
- Targeted commissioner discussion on systemic implications and intervention strategies

VII. Open Floor for Commissioners

5 minutes

All Commissioners

- Additional comments, initiatives, and policy recommendations
- Discussion of report recommendations and implementation strategies

VIII. Next Steps & Action Items

10 minutes

Chair Wilson



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- Dissemination of findings to Congress, Department of Education, and stakeholders
- Identification of legislative actions: HBCU appropriations, Pell Grant expansion, scholarship programs
- Engagement with HBCU leadership and regional roundtables
- Partnerships with TMCF, UNCF, National Urban League, and My Brother's Keeper Alliance
- National public awareness campaign planning
- Commissioner advocacy assignments

IX. Adjournment

3 minutes

Chair Wilson

- Final comments
- Closing remarks and adjournment