

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dear Tougaloo Family and Friends:



I am truly honored to have been entrusted the responsibility to chair the Board of Trustees at one of the finest liberal arts colleges in this state and nation. Your continued support and pride for Tougaloo are invaluable and needed as the Board and administration work collaboratively to find new and better ways to advance our mission.

I hope that you are as proud as I am to be a part of this great institution. I am ever more proud of Tougaloo because of its longtime commitment, not only to academic excellence but social justice as well. During some of the darkest periods of racial oppression, hostility and unrest in the state of Mississippi, particularly during the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Tougaloo College leaders and students took controversial stands and made decisions in support of African-American’s struggles, civil rights, and human decency. The killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless others is a firm reminder that our work is not finished. We must continue to stand up and intentionally speak out against racism, injustice and inequality. I invite alumni and friends to join Tougaloo College in effectuating change in this state and nation.

As we continue to navigate in a time of uncertainty due to COVID-19, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. Life at Tougaloo has changed, but it has not stopped. The Board is extremely pleased with the work that the President Walters and her leadership team are doing to make thoughtful decisions in response to constantly shifting challenges and to safely return students and employees to the campus in the fall.

Tougaloo College is climbing to new heights, expanding and progressing on many fronts to improve the quality of education and ranking of the College. As Trustees, we are focused on policy; however, we remain committed to being engaged with the administration to address educational, social, financial, and infrastructure challenges that require timely and strategic decisions. During our May Board meeting, President Walters presented several initiatives that were approved and two required further exploration: 1) a trademark logo for the College that includes trademark lettering for the name, and 2) the establishment of a foundation for philanthropy. In order to review these items in greater detail and make an informed decision on the merits of any recommendation, I established two ad hoc committees. I have charged these committees to work with President Walters, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, appropriate board committees, and other stakeholders to bring recommendations to the full board meeting in October for a decision. These committees are already hard at work.

Trademark Logo and Lettering

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| Elane Coleman, Chair | Shirlethia Franklin |
| Jeffrey Artis | David Meier |
| Estelle Cooke-Sampson | Marion Tresvant |

Foundation for Philanthropy

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| Carol T. Puckett, Chair | Larry Lucas |
| Ben Aldridge | Marion Tresvant |
| Steve Edds | Mavis James |

In closing, I speak for the Board in expressing sincere gratitude for all you do and asking you to continue to lend your support to President Carmen J. Walters. In a short 11 months, she has had to lead our school through uncharted territory. I also encourage you to send a gift to Tougaloo College before June 30th. Any gift, large or small, is needed and appreciated. Thank you for being a part of the Tougaloo family. I look forward to our continued work together.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edmond E. Hughes". The script is fluid and cursive.

Edmond E. Hughes ’85