



**May 12, 2009 SMC Black Alumni Chapter Notes**  
**SMC, Gal. 113, 7:00pm – 9pm**

Present (12): Gail Garrett, Tammy Appling-Cabading, Faith Taylor, Chris Major, Halima Marshall, Warren Parker and Lloyd Schine. By phone: JP Musgrove, Tamika Workmon, Karis Stodamire, Ranelle Dunman, and Denise Bradley.

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- **Introductions**
  - Went around the room introducing each other and explain why we are all here.
- **Overview of Initial Meeting.**
  - Went over notes and planning proposal prepared by Rushell Gordon.
  - Discussed that these are the initial stages of the group.
  - It will be up to the group to determine how this organization will function and how it will interact with and be a visible presence for students.
  - Mentoring was very important.
  - Giving the students the opportunities, information and resources that we as students did not have is very important. Giving advice and being a role model are very important.
  - Discussed that the students should feel included and should also include all types of students different than themselves when it comes to race, religion or socio economic differences
  - Talked about checking in on our scholarship ideas. Faith will follow up with this.
- **New Ideas.**
  - Thought about creating a student survey to find out why they go or why they don't attend events and get involved. What are the students interested in? Maybe do a diversity club survey for all of the campus diversity clubs.
  - Ask the BSU (Black Student Union) what they need. What are they looking for? What are they interested in? .
  - Have a Black Alumni Chapter Newsletter. Send the newsletter to the students as well to let them know what our group is doing.
  - Support and attend all of the diversity organization s and events. Encourage the BSU students to do the same.
  - Begin the mentoring and support process Freshman year. Begin as soon as they become students at SMC.
  - Have Chapter members rotate through and attend BSU meetings to have a visible presence at all times for the students.
  - Have a town Hall meeting for students to share their views, frustrations, wants and needs, etc.
  - Let students know about the importance of Networking and relating with all types of people.
  - Students need to learn from each other.
- **Potential Committees**
  - We began the discussion of committee assignments.
  - By Laws Committee – Halima M. , Rushell G., and Karis S.
  - Communication Committee – Gail G.
  - Fundraising – Faith T.
  - Events – Warren P.



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- Recruitment and Retention – Chris M.
- We determined that each member of the chapter will be a member of a committee.
- Each committee will designate a recorder for their notes to bring to the whole group.
- **Next Steps**
  - The Alumni Office will gather a list of new African American students from the admission's office to invite them to a welcome event in early fall.
  - Lloyd will send out basic descriptions of each committee
  - Lloyd will send a roster of African American Alumni to the group to begin to gather correct data.
  - The By-Laws committee will meet to discuss the by-laws and bring a outline to the next meeting.
  - May 21 is the Black Graduation Celebration. 6pm. Lefevre Theatre at SMC. Members will RSVP to Lloyd
  - The group will plan a welcome BBQ for all current BSU members and all incoming African American students in Late Summer/Early Fall.
  - Faith will gather information about beginning a Black Alumni Chapter Scholarship of some kind.
  - The next meeting will be determined. Either the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> or June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Go Gaels!**