



June 11, 2009 SMC Black Alumni Chapter Notes
SMC, Gal. 113, 7:00pm – 9pm

Present (8): Gail Garrett, Faith Taylor, Chris Major, Luke Johnson, Halima Marshall, and Lloyd Schine. By phone: Tammy Appling-Cabading and Greg Cantrell.

- **Introductions**
 - Went around the room introducing each other and explain why we are all here.
 - We had two new members. Luke Johnson '09 and Greg Cantrell '80.
- **Overview of Initial Meetings.**
 - 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.
 - The group would be very focused on the students.
 - Mentoring is very important.
- **Chapter Scholarship Progress**
 - Faith reported that the scholarship is in process and has the support of the VP for Advancement.
 - The scholarship won't be finalized by the end of this fiscal year, but Faith made an appeal for members to donate before June 30th to show that we are a committed group. Members' donations can be made to a designation of their choice at this time.
 - If there is no progress on the BAC Scholarship before the fall welcome event with students, it was suggested that we utilize the finalized By-Laws to propose a description of the Fund and the preferences associated with it.
 - Fundraising committee volunteers will lead the way in soliciting support for the BAC scholarship.
- **Chapter Mission and Goals**
 - We discussed the Mission and Goals of the group.
 - Retention, Recruitment, Outreach, Scholarship, Mentorship and Networking were the major goals that came up. All with a strong focus on the students.
 - Promoting awareness for the students would be very important.
 - Educating our community, our students and teaching them how to be socially responsible is key.
 - The group would need to have a compelling connection of why they are here and part of the chapter.
 - The group should pass on the wisdom, history, and knowledge of the BSU and Black Alumni Chapter.
 - The group must support all SMC students, undergraduate and graduate students.
 - The group would also like to see more faculty at SMC as well, who understand the struggle of our students. More faculty who can relate to what our students of color face each day and especially our students of African Descent.
 - The By-Laws committee would come together this summer and finalize a strong Mission Statement for the group.
 - They would e-mail out the draft mission so that everyone would have the opportunity for buy in this summer.
 - The Goal would be to have something finalized by the fall welcome event with students.



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- The committee would also work on the By-Laws to come with a draft for distribution, suggestions and changes.
- The Goal is to have a final draft for the By-Laws would also be ready to present at the fall welcome event also.
- **Welcome Event**
 - We discussed having a welcome event along with the students this September.
 - Lloyd would check with the Intercultural Center or New Student Programs to find out how the group could support the event.
- **Other Discussion Ideas**
 - The group would like to have a designated location on campus to honor important alumni and friends who have made significant, positive change to the Black Community.
 - Maybe a perpetual plaque or bench with the names of awardees from the Black Alumni Chapter Honors and Awards Dinners, receptions, etc.
 - The group would like to collect pictures, slides, etc. to have for our history and also to show at events, dinners, receptions, etc.
 - The group would like to have a roster of current members with current info. to help keep in contact with one another.
- **Next Steps**
 - The Alumni Office will work with the Intercultural Center/New Student programs on the welcome event.
 - The By-Laws committee will meet to discuss the by-laws and mission and distribute to the group.
 - Faith will continue to gather information about the Black Alumni Chapter Scholarship.
 - The next meeting will be determined. It will be held in August before the welcome event.

Go Gaels!