

Black Faculty and Staff Association Minutes  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 5:15 pm

I. Meeting opened with the introduction of officers

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| President                        | Lorianne Mitchell      |
| Vice President                   | Hadii Mamudu           |
| Treasurer/Budget & Finance Chair | Queen Brown            |
| Secretary                        | Cerrone Foster         |
| Member at Large                  | Carshonda Harris       |
| Parliamentarian                  | Angela Claxton-Freeman |
| Book Fund Chair                  | Mary Jordan            |

Persons present included:

Queen Brown, Lorianne Mitchell, Angela Freeman-Claxton, Lisa Bell, Carshonda Harris, Hadii Mamudu, Faustine Williams, Joy Fulkerson, Michael Small, Cerrone Foster, Tamara McKenzie, Evelyn Rooche

II. Lorianne read the mission statement from the BFSA website and opened up ideas on how to fulfill the mission. Several ideas included:

- Mentoring with students from the QUEST program
- Tamara McKenzie suggested that the Minorities in Medicine organization is looking to partner with student organizations such as Black Affairs or other minority organizations on campus
- Mentoring and connecting with new faculty on campus
- Discussion of what does it mean to be an advocate
- Helping students understand the history and hearing their current issues
- Discussion of a bigger concern for minorities on campus was introduced. This was focused on the dissolving of TBR and creation of local governing board. There will be no oversight from the chancellor on establishing standards for diversity

III. Suggestions were made on ways faculty need to be visible and vocal with new members on the governing board as well as campus committees. There was discussion of a specific statement of inclusion of diversity in the university's strategic plan and Joy suggested being more specific on what diversity would look like and what we would like to see in terms of numbers. Ways that we can participate in the dialogue include:

- Town Hall meetings
- University committees

IV. Lorianne introduced the idea of changing the status of BFSA from a social organization to a professional group on campus. Steps forward would include:

- Identifying the campus office to make the changes (currently we are registered through student organizations)
- Changing to a professional organization with the intention of having an advocate on board meetings. A comparison was made to the "Commission on Women" group. Pros will be that we can have a greater voice at board meetings, cons could be that membership could be limited
- Identifying other BFSA groups in the TBR system
- Attending Blacks in Higher Education meeting was suggested as a way to build partnerships. The upcoming meeting will be April 2016 in Durham, NC. Lorianne discussed taking a group to the meeting since it is local

V. Possible name change of BFSA was discussed. Some of the comments were:

- If the name is a turn off to others on campus
- How to convey to other organizations that BFSA is inclusive
- How to educate the campus on the mission of BFSA

VI. Frequency of meetings and times were discussed.

- Suggestions were bimonthly Mon or Thurs evenings 4:30 or 5pm. Lorianne will send out a doodle poll to see what the best times are

VII. Financial Report

- Queen Brown gave an update on balance in the treasury of \$5, 530.41

VIII. Upcoming Events

- State of the Union Oct. 3
- Paul Taylor Dance sponsored by Mary B. Martin Oct 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm in the Culp Center
- Mavis Staple at the Orange Peel in Ashville, NC on Sunday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>

Meeting closed with ideas for BFSA banquet. Michael Eric Dyson was mentioned but it was suggested to have him for a separate event in partnership with other campus organizations. Also to have students involved in hosting the event. Creation of a BFSA Facebook page was also mentioned.