

Meeting Minutes
Black Alumni Constituent Society Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2010

Present: Phil Anderson, Mike Chisley, Fred Cox, Teresa Jeter, Pam Morris, Charles Payne, Charmaine Powell, Carl Radford, Keith Robinson, Sue Taylor and Laura Waldron.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Pam Morris.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June 26, 2010 were unanimously approved following a motion by Fred and second by Mike.

Alumni Council Report

Mike reported on the September 11, 2010 Alumni Council meeting. There was discussion about the struggles facing higher education and the push for a more educated work force. The nominating committee presented a slate for the 2011 Executive Committee of the Alumni Council. The chair will be Terry Coleman. The vice chairs will be Jim Andrew, Jenny Budreau, Fred Cox, Larry Metzger and Kim Stout. During Mike's Council report, he presented information about the United Way breakfast, the board's scholarship opportunities, Homecoming and reunion festivities. The next Alumni Council meeting will be January 29, 2011. Following a motion from Mike and a second from Fred, the board approved the report.

Homecoming 2010 Review

Fred was very pleased with the number of Black alumni who returned to campus for Homecoming, especially the tailgate. Mike agreed and said that there were probably 200 attending the luncheon, the tailgate or individual parties. The question was raised regarding how the tailgate was communicated to alumni. Phil noted that there was a disconnect between some alumni and the society's sponsored activities. He suggested contacting the organizers of the tailgate in order to work together to bring more alumni back to campus. The board agreed. Keith stated that the planning and communication for the tailgate occurred over months and through Facebook and e-mails. He said that several Greek organizations (i.e., Qs, Deltas) worked on bringing their alumni back for Homecoming. There were meeting rooms at two area hotels and a post-game gathering at Cornerstone Center for the Arts (Muncie).

The question was raised if the energy is for Homecoming or if there is interest in the reunion as well. Mike said that Homecoming wasn't as big when he graduated and that's why his generation leaned more towards a reunion than Homecoming. Pam noted that the reunion may need to change shape a little in order to appeal more to all graduates. Sue added that a full reunion, like the August event, cannot be held at Homecoming due to building and staff availability and conflicts with other university activities.

It was decided that four alumni who were instrumental in the promotion of the tailgate be invited to the next BACS board of directors meeting. It is hoped that the BACS can work with these young alumni to increase involvement with alumni through various activities.

Strategic Plan

Pam , Mike, Fred, Teresa, Phil and Sue served on the Strategic Plan committee. Pam presented the vision and mission statements to the board of directors. She would like the statements to appear on the society's Web site, Facebook and other appropriate communications.

Vision Statement: *The Black Alumni Constituent Society will be the most recognized resource on Ball State's campus for alumni and students of African descent. We will collaborate with the university to build an inclusive environment where all members of its community will be valued, nurtured, respected and empowered to achieve their full potential.*

Carl moved to accept the Vision Statement and Fred and Phil seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mission Statement: *The Mission of the Society shall be to stimulate the interest of all Black alumni of Ball State University, supporting issues related to alumni and students of African descent. The Society will work to further the educational, professional, social and philanthropic interests of Black alumni, individually and collectively; and to acknowledge and recognize the achievement of both alumni and students.*

Carl moved to accept the Mission Statement and Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Carl suggested that the board recognize top students at the spring 2011 Celebration of Excellence. Charles said that the BACS could present an award at the event to students earning a GPA of 3.5 or better. It was suggested that a certificate would be a nice gesture, as is the presence of the BACS president (or representative). This opportunity will need to be coordinated and confirmed with Patricia Lovett, Director of the Multicultural Center.

Scholarships

Pam stated that she was very happy the BACS will be able to recognize scholarship recipients at the August reunion. Carl suggested that a PowerPoint presentation run during the reunion that lists the scholarships and donors – not amounts, just names. Pam agreed that the more visible the scholarship and recognitions are, the more people will embrace the idea. Teresa added that there should be some discussion of the funds at the reunion or maybe a flyer on the registration table. Pam will work with Chip on a letter to mail to alumni about the scholarship opportunities. Mike asked that the scholarship details be added to the BACS website.

Mike asked if the BACS should prioritize fund needs for those who are unsure where the greatest needs are. After discussion, the board decided to give alumni the fund options and let them make

their own fund priorities. Board members will monitor account funds and set their own fund priorities as needs arise.

The board asked that the four funds be listed in the minutes:

#401 Ball State University Alumni Association (operations)

#408 Black Alumni Constituent Society (operations) – awards, reunion costs, etc.

#461 Black Alumni Constituent Society Endowed Scholarship (\$25,000 minimum)

#462 Black Alumni Constituent Society Book Scholarship (annually expendable)

Membership

Mike wanted to address the attendance concerns that were raised at the previous meeting. Pam agreed with his concerns and said that the board needs active, engaged members. Currently, a small group is attending the meetings and doing all the work. Pam read the Constitution's section on attendance:

Article V Board, Section 2: "Termination of board members. The incumbent's term shall be concluded when:

1. The board receives written communication that the member no longer wishes to serve on the board.

2. The board member has missed two consecutive board meetings without reasonable cause.

This termination shall be determined by a majority vote of the Society's Board of Directors."

Pam noted that the board has been very lax on this policy. Mike questioned how involved out of state board members can be. Mike noted that Ben had been the exception. Fred shared Mike's concern and asked how the board can continue without revitalizing it with committed members who will attend meetings and events. He suggested that members who have missed two meetings be sent a letter asking their intentions for remaining on the board, or, send a letter thanking the individual for their service and asking them to consider serving again in the future. Carl suggested that members who miss two meetings receive a friendly attendance reminder with their copy of the minutes. He hopes this will motivate individuals. Fred said that the BACS needs to bring in members who will attend meetings and events and the board needs to stick with the attendance policy. Mike added that the policy is in the Constitution and should be enforced. He said the society should ask what a member's intentions are when two meetings have been missed. The message being that this is a working board. Fred noted that attendance is in person, not on the phone. Pam agreed. It was suggested that the attendance policy be sent with a meeting's e-mail reminder

Currently, there are six openings on the board – two newly created positions and positions from the retirements of Jenell, Nancy, Foster and Connie. There was much discussion regarding these openings. It was decided to fill two positions with strong applicants from the pool of candidates. After much discussion, a call for additional nominations and requests for information on potential candidates, Fred nominated Kendale Adams, '97 for membership. Carl seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. Carl then nominated Renee Akins, MA99 for membership. Fred seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. Sue will notify the new members. Carl voted to close nominations, Fred seconded and the motion passed by voice vote.

Mike suggested that others under consideration be invited to the next meeting. There was also a discussion about whether a member needs to have earned their degree from Ball State or have attended. Carl said that the group name includes alumni and when working with, mentoring, and encouraging students to graduate, our membership should also be graduates. It was suggested that if the board does not want attendees to be members of the board of directors, it should be written into the Constitution.

Sue will invite the Homecoming tailgate key communicators and potential board members to attend the January meeting. The board will meet at 10:00 a.m. and guests will arrive at 11:30 a.m. After the meeting, those interested in membership will be asked to supply a vita to the board. This will be distributed to the membership for an electronic vote. It was suggested that this be the established format for new members going forward. Carl noted that the nominating process should be added to the Constitution.

Awards

The awards committee is chaired by Teresa and includes Charmaine, Phil and Sue. The committee will review nominations at 8:30 a.m. prior to the meeting on January 22. Sue provided the membership with a copy of the nomination form. Teresa requested that, in the future, requests for nominations be sent by e-mail. Mike suggested the Facebook page be used for this purpose as well – even personal Facebook pages. Sue said there is a link on the BACS Web site.

“Each 1 Reach 1” Reunion 2011

Committees

Menus – Pam, Charmaine and Sue

Music – Board decided against hiring a DJ. Mike will bring in music for Friday evening and Keith will provide for Saturday’s dance and hospitality room

Publicity – Fred will draft the program and flyers and the BSUAA publications staff will format and print

Photographer – Michael White

Reunion Format

It was decided to revisit the “reunion within a reunion” idea from a few years back. Greek alumni, or other student groups, could hold mini-reunions during the day on Saturday to encourage their friends to return to campus.

Fred suggested that the board continue with the Friday reception and cash bar. The food could be kept light to cut costs. He suggested eliminating the Saturday lunch and moving towards conversation and cards or a stadium tour with chips and drinks. Members of the board stressed the value of the lunch as a time to reconnect and voted to continue with the luncheon.

Fred suggested the same schedule for Saturday evening but potentially making changes to the hospitality room. Fred asked the board to consider eliminating the Sunday breakfast due to cost and low attendance. Pam and Mike agreed. The board unanimously voted to remove the Sunday breakfast from the reunion schedule. With regards to the keynote speaker, Fred suggested Linda Clemmons as she fits in well with the theme, or Priscilla Burris-Dames. Mike suggested Tim Brown or Stedman Graham. It was suggested that Tim could speak briefly and mingle at Friday’s reception and have a separate keynote. Charles will look into other possibilities. No decision was finalized. The issue will be revisited at the January meeting.

The board is considering 1-2 panel discussions for Saturday morning. The discussion was tabled until the January meeting when new members can help generate panel ideas.

The board unanimously agreed to not have vendors Saturday and to keep Michael White as the photographer for the group photo. Michael is interested in pre-sale of his photos and exclusive use of his backdrops. He will not be providing a CD or DVD with photos at this time.

Further reunion discussion was tabled until the January meeting.

Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **January 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. EST** (Muncie time) **in the Alumni Center Board Room following the awards committee meeting**. The board will meet again on Saturday, February 26, 2011 in the Alumni Center Board Room.

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