

**Black Alumni Council Meeting
February 19, 2005
Gault Alumni Center
The College of Wooster**

In Attendance: Abdul Rashid'94 (President), Solomon Oliver'69, Ken McCargh'70, Shawanda Thomas '99 (treasurer), Timeka Rashid'99, Ramon Stewart' 01, Gabrielle Caldwell '04, Susan Lee'82, Brooke Lockett'02, David Yokley'00 -alumni via teleconference: Artricia Love'99, Nicole Knight'97, Dan Turner'94, James Cleamons'97, Andre Parker, Chip Allen '87
Current students: Stephen Kufour'05, WillTores'05, Jennifer Culver'07, and Samathryn Witham. Faculty- Sheila Garg

I. Discussion on Dean of Admission search:

- Current student feedback in part- felt that the former Dean displayed a lack of sensitivity with his remarks. Stated the Admissions department did hold a panel discussion after the *Voice* article to explain the recruiting process for minority students.

Questions asked: 1.What is the College currently doing in this new search? 2.What steps is the College taking to hire a person who will be sensitive to the recruitment of minority students? 3. Will there be a second minority recruitment position developed. (Some alumni remembered there was one at one time) Some responses and suggestions offered:

- Professor Garg: "College is making sure there will be students in the interview process".
- Suggestion: Involving alumni in open session during interview
- David Yokley (currently Minority Admission counselor) stated he was not sure what the plans were to create a second minority admission counselor position.
- Although his comments were inaccurate, question raised is, Is it a reflection on policy?

Suggestion made: that Iain Crawford (VP/ Dean of Academic Affairs) be invited to a meeting to answer some these questions. This area reports directly to him.

II. Retention issues:

- Retention numbers for minority students is steadily declining.
- There is a estimated 94 "Black or African American" students at the College.
- Ken McCargh stated an associate told him there maybe data showing that the retention rate for African American students at Wooster is about 29%

- Professor Garg and Susan Lee stated that Michael Thompson a staff member sin campus statistics can provide the actual number.

Comments “ As the College sets goals for fundraising the college should have a public goal for the recruitment and retention of minority students.”

Comment and question: “College is known for retaining international students, but why is this not the case for domestic minority students?”

Suggestion: BAC should get a copy of the strategic plan

Susan Lee stated: In an effort to address some of these issues the College has joined the Consortium for Strong Minority Presence (CSMP) this body of liberal colleges focuses on issues surrounding recruiting and retaining minority students.

Professor Garg also stated the College is working on a grant to develop a Dean of First Year student position.

Faculty retention and recruitment, also a big issue. College needs to do more to retain Black faculty/ staff.

Question offered for VP/Dean Crawford: What are his plans to recruit Black faculty?

Suggestion BAC needs to come together to develop a plan to recruit and retain Black faculty and staff.

III. Black Studies issue:

Concerns were raised by Dr. Wright on the status of Black studies classes and the overall curriculum for next year.

Professor Garg was invited to address such issues. She states in part

- 1.1 There was communication breakdown in getting to Dr. Wright the schedule deadline.
- 1.2 She stated that it is likely once revisions are made by the Black studies they can still get in the catalog for the 2005-06 academic year.
- 1.3 She feels that the courses that the dept offered are “good offerings” , they demonstrated a positive step in the vertical progress of classes
- 1.4 One of the biggest issue by the committee was the number of classes proposed by the dept was larger than their ratio to students.

Suggestion: Publicize the report that shows the number of Black faculty.

IV. Proposal and plans for next steps:

- Coordinate meeting with Iain Crawford to discuss Black Faculty recruitment issue, and to discuss new position in Admissions.
- Also suggested to set up a time for Kurt Holmes to attend a BAC meeting to discuss current plans for Director of Residence Life issue.
- Racial climate on campus

V. Updates:

- There is over \$1,700 in BAC fund
- BAC trip- proposed amendment made for it to become a regional effort
- Students who were expelled for vandalism in Bornhuetter Dorm were allow to come back to the College
- Seat at the Table: has raised about \$2600 thus far.
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VI. Next meeting:

- Tentative date: May meeting
- Follow up for setting plans for possible regional BAC trip