

**I. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions**

- A general body meeting of the Black Alumni Chapter was called to order at 1:35pm in the Henderson Center Ballroom of Virginia Union University. Shavalyea Wyatt, Monica Windley, Natasha DuMerville, Shontya Bready, Jamie Lanier, Jennifer Jackson, Melanie Hayden, Dawn Smith-Barnes, Justin Thompson, Tracey Kellogg, Terika Grooms, Chantelle Britton, Derrick Farson, Morgan Dye, Chad Smith, Kristin Brown, James Gordon, Latichia Fleming, Tre Lewis, DeTasha Jefferson, Trinette Randolph, and Tracy Porter were in attendance.
- The President welcomed all that attended, and everyone in the room introduced themselves.

**II. Officer Report**

**a. President Report**

- The President gave the purpose and the goals of the meeting, and stated the goals for the Black Alumni Chapter.
- The President reported that Dr. Scott Castelo retired from JMU; there was a tuition increase for students; and the Bond referendum voted upon in November 2002 passed.

**b. Vice President Report**

- The Vice President introduced the purpose and responsibilities of the regional representatives.

**c. Treasurer Report**

- The President gave this report. The current financial status of the Black Alumni Chapter is satisfactory, but it could be improved upon. Fundraising is a goal in the upcoming year; the most ideal mechanism for obtaining funds has yet to be determined.

**d. Secretary Report**

- The Secretary read the mission statement for the Black Alumni Chapter: *The mission of the James Madison University Black Alumni Chapter is to serve as an instrument to promote positive relationships between the JMU African American student community, JMU African American alumni, and the University; and to serve as a network of support to the JMU African American student community.*

**III. Committee Report**

**a. Mentoring**

- The chair explained the purpose of the program "Pathways to Success," reported on the status of the program. Currently there are more mentors than mentees, and plans are being made for Spring 2003 activities.

**b. Communication**

- The chair gave the web site address for the new Black Alumni Chapter homepage:  
[www.goecites.com/JMUBAC/BACindex.html](http://www.goecites.com/JMUBAC/BACindex.html)

**c. Scholarship**

- The chair reported that scholarships were presented to four first year students at the Homecoming 2002 Contemporary Gospel Singers concert. The chair's goal is to keep in continuous contact with the scholarship recipients, and provide them with continuous encouragement.

**IV. Student Representative Report**

- The Student Representative updated the general body on the status of campus life. Take-A-Look day was a "huge success." Nearly 700 people attended, and the event was held for the first time in the new College Center. The Black Student Alliance (BSA) and JMU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) went in front of the Student Government Association (SGA) to review their Front End Budget (FEB) status. The SGA Finance Committee denied both organizations continuance of FEB status. After an appeal to the SGA Senate, BSA was re-granted their status. The NAACP will present their case before the SGA Senate for a second time on January 14, 2003 at 5pm in Taylor 202.
- Upcoming events are as follows:
  - ⇒ Ebony Exposure, sponsored by Black Student Alliance, will take place the week of March 24, 2003. This week will include a Fashion Show by the Iota Alpha chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Chocolate City by BOND, NAACP Image Awards, University Sunday, and Mr. and Mrs. Ebony Exposure.
  - ⇒ The Lambda Chi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha is sponsoring a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration during the week of February 9, 2003 – February 16, 2003. The week will include a formal banquet and ball on Saturday, February 15, 2003.
  - ⇒ The Black and Latino Greek Caucus is holding their BLGC week, beginning Monday February 24, 2003.
  - ⇒ BLCG is having a formal ball on the Annabel Lee in Richmond on Saturday, April 5, 2003
  - ⇒ Prospective Students' Weekend will take place Friday, April 11, 2003 – Sunday, April 13, 2003
  - ⇒ Graduation is Saturday, May 10, 2003

## **V. New Business**

### **a. Upcoming Events**

- Career Day is planned to be an event dedicated to giving JMU minority students information about the different career paths they can experience following graduation, as well as assist them in their pursuit of postgraduate employment or education. Tentative workshops include Resume Writing, Interviewing Skills, Business Dress/Etiquette and How to Get into Graduate School. Tentative career presentations include business, education, medical, law, and entertainment. Volunteers are needed to help plan this event.
- Vice President, Monica Windley is currently working with George Mason University on establishing a JMU/GMU Partnership between the two black alumni chapters. More information is to come.
- Homecoming 2003 will take place October 11, 2003
- The next general body meeting of the Black Alumni Chapter will take place April 26, 2003 at 1pm in Taylor 404 (campus of JMU). There was a suggestion made to plan something after the meeting to attract more participation. There are also plans to host a Senior Reception for those seniors graduating in May.

### **b. Open Floor**

- The floor was opened to discuss the status of students of color at JMU. The following lists topics discussed.
- How do we increase minority population?
- Who is working to increase the minority population?
- JMU attracts students, but there is nothing to retain them
- Current student leaders should network with past leaders to get an idea of what was done prior to keep spirits up
- Students are not satisfied with the JMU experience because of a lack of activities
- There seems to be a lack of involvement from the students; they do not want to participate
- There is a difference between black enrollment today versus 10 years ago
  - ⇒ 10 years ago blacks were 10% of the student population, in comparison with today's 4%
- The decline in numbers was attributed to lack of funds available to black students
- The lack of unity within students has, and does transfer to the alumni level
- Students need to take proactive steps to create what they want
- Ideas for change
  - ⇒ Co-sponsor activities with surrounding universities
  - ⇒ Mass alumni/student reception in Taylor Hall the weekend of Homecoming to help bridge the gap between the two communities
  - ⇒ Leadership Series

## **VI. Announcements**

- Ailey II to perform at JMU, Wednesday, January 15, 2003 in Wilson Hall Auditorium, 7:30pm. \$10 for students. For more information, visit <http://cal.jmu.edu/masterpiece>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Fair: Friday, January 10, 2003, 10am-2pm at the Holiday inn, Tysons Corner. Hosted by the JMU Metro/DC Alumni chapter. For more information visit: [www.jmu.edu/alumni/jobfair](http://www.jmu.edu/alumni/jobfair) or call the Office of Alumni Relations toll free at 888-JMU-ALUM.
- Alumni Leadership Conference February 7-8, 2003. Event includes a dinner/awards banquet, workshops, and lunch with the Duke Club, presentation by Dr. Rose, campus tour, pizza party and basketball game. This weekend is cost-free for Alumni Association volunteers.
- Ebony Exposure, March 24, 2003. Theme: A JMU Family Reunion. There will be a carnival, cookout, DJ, and party.

## **VII. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4pm.