**BFSA General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019
12:30 p.m.
Library Classroom JPL 3.02.32 with Skype

Members present: Kareem Mattis, Chief Gerald Lewis, Dr. Sonja Lanehart, Yolanda Williams, Sheriley Smith, Emmanuel Akwar, Dr. Myron Anderson, Kalia Glover, Brittani Rogers, Michelle Skidmore

I. **Call to order** – Michelle called meeting to order

II. **Introductions** - All introduced themselves. Dr. Myron Anderson came to our first meeting. Michelle spoke about new year’s goals and how to achieve them. First order of business was regarding MLK March. Michelle encouraged all to attend, stressed importance of strengthening visibility in community. Flyer was passed around with info on marching with the UTSA contingent.

III. **Networking** - Michelle spoke about networking opportunities. Many at UTSA do not know we exist. Ann-Margaret Trujillo is excited to collaborate with us for networking event on Jan. 18. BFSA will have an info table.

IV. **Dues** - Spoke briefly about dues. Dr. Lanehart mentioned BFSA paid $50 for the year in previous years. Michelle says we can decide on dues after we discuss our areas of focus and roles of members.

V. **Focus Group** - Michelle asked group what they want to see from BFSA. What shall be our areas of focus for the year? This brought about an open table discussion. Ideas shared. Dr. Lanehart brought up topic of **ADVOCACY**. Dr. Anderson and Chief Lewis emphasized importance of **MENTORSHIP**, especially for men of color within our University. Michelle knows an individual who was arrested for armed robbery and went to juvenile detention. He turned his life around, started mentoring to incarcerated youth and created his own nonprofit for young men of color. He might like to be a speaker for a dialogue on youth empowerment. Dr. Anderson brought up brother-to-brother program as an example. Dr. Lanehart spoke about consistency from BFSA. What can people always expect from us? For example, hosting a dialogue series, meeting a BFSA member or hosting a luncheon. Brittani Rogers via Skype presented the idea of a dedicated space or resource center for BFSA. We could ask for dedicated space or temporary space or a space already owned by another dept. Dr. Anderson says the retention of faculty and staff goes hand in hand with student success. The space would also be an important factor in student success. Students can come to this place for questions, guidance, and support. We could hold meetings and events from there.

VI. **Black History Month** – Dr. Lanehart mentioned we could have a BHM series to engage students to meet mentors/role models within our group. For example, meet the President, Meet the Secretary of BFSA, Meet the Vice-President for Inclusive Excellence, or Meet a Professor.

VII. **Membership** - What does this mean? How do we align the organization with people’s interests? This will help to get more involved.

IX. **Communications** - Kareem brought up issue of the lack of visibility with BFSA. Michelle’s idea was to get the newsletter up and running again celebrating Black excellence, sharing stories, informing others’ of events and job opportunities. Michelle says newsletter could be shared with people in the community. Dr. Lanehart says there is a demand for San Antonio community to learn more about what we do. Michelle will try to get website up and running again. Chief Lewis has connecting with the Paisano. Someone could write an article about the BFSA. Kalia says she can pull a list of UTSA students and sort out Black students. Michelle talked about outreach to Black Greek organizations to get a sense of what the concerns are among the Black student body to determine how BFSA can help best address those concerns.

X. **Programming** - Ideas came across such as research forum. University of Alabama does this. They host research forums on topics of disparities. Dr. Lanehart spoke about idea of present a white paper.

XI. **Announcements** - Chief Lewis spoke about a training on Feb. 12. BFSA has opportunity to get involved. Chief Lewis says there are a few spaces for us. The event is Fair and Impartial Policing Training. It is a 4-hour training from 1pm until 5pm.