BFSA General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

12:00 p.m.

RWC 2.218

Members present: Michelle Skidmore, Dr. Sonja Lanehart, Yolanda Williams, Tammy Brooks, Emmanuel Akwar, Dr. Myron Anderson, Karla Broadus, Wanda Guntz, LT Robinson, Vanessa Kenon, Dr. Crystal Webster

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by, Michelle Skidmore. The minutes from the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. Open Issues
3. Black Heritage Banquet – The BFSA offers assistance in the planning and organizing of the Banquet. The desire is to provide a great event and increase student participation.
4. NAACP Meeting – Yolanda Williams attended the NAACP meeting on campus and provided a recap of student concerns.
* Opportunities for exposure at UTSA
* Unfair representation , unequitable distribution of funding to student organizations
* Divisiveness
* Students felt left behind – dropped, marginalized and used as tokens.
* Racial comments- micro aggression (Let me touch your hair, dropped wallet {lucky it was empty}, going to take a whip to you {volleyball coach})
1. Black Excellence Awards, April 21 - This event is hosted by the Black Student Leadership Council. BFSA is encouraged to nominate each other.
2. UJIMA Graduation Ceremony – Dr. Howard Smith is the guest speaker. The ceremony will take place on April 14.
3. UTSA Roadrunner Productions Presents Carlotta Walls LaNeir as our Spring Semester Featured Speaker – BFSA encourages attendance. The event will take place, March 28, 2019, 5:00 PM in the Retama. A flyer was distributed to promote the event.
4. Dues – For full-time employees, dues are $40, for part-time employees, dues are $20. Dues can be paid through PayPal or in person check/cash. Dr. Kelly can assist.
5. Committees – Attendees were requested to think about committees in which they can serve.
6. Website and social media @utsabfsa – Michelle has encountered difficulty in acquiring the credentials to access the existing website. Vanessa Kenon will assist.
7. Seeking a Historian – This position remain vacant. Yolanda Williams is historian. We do have a historian for BFSA.
8. Community Service Opportunity at Haven for Hope – Michelle asked if there was interest in participating in a community service project at Haven for Hope on a Saturday. There is interest, no date was selected.
9. Future programming ideas – BFSA was encouraged to collectively bring our talents. Recommendations are solicited to make an impact on our campus community.
10. End of semester social – Ideas/recommendations are being solicited for an end of semester social.
11. Open discussion -

Dr. Lanehart shared information about the Black Professionals Bookclub. The bookclub was established by Dr. Langston Clark. The group meets at a black-owned restaurant. There is also a Black Restaurant Week, when black-owned restaurants are showcased.

Members of BFSA met with ministers connected with the Community of Churches for Social Action (CCSA), and engaged in conversation regarding connecting communities.

Suggestion was made to celebrate Black Friday. One day a month, we will all meet in the Sombrilla for lunch.

Yolanda Williams and Tammy Brooks are working on a new T-shirt design for BFSA.

It was suggested that BFSA solicit additional funding to support special programs and scholarships. Members can give above and beyond their annual dues.

Announcements were made to support upcoming speaker engagements. Dr. Ed Gordon, UT-Austin, hosted by the African-American Studies program, April 11th, 8:30 AM and 1:00 PM. Faculty and staff are invited to attend the 1:00 PM session. The event will be held in the JPL Faculty Center.

The Summit on Race will be held in Austin, April 8-10.

Michelle will forward a Google.doc, that will allow faculty to list the classes they are instructing, and will allow student to see all of the classes being instructed by Black faculty.

Yolanda Williams has compiled a booklet that contains information for all Black student organizations on campus. She will forward the link to this booklet.