



Dear Black Student Movement Members,

If you had asked me three years ago whether or not I had even a thought in my mind about being the Black Student Movement (BSM) President, I would have said no. I watched Ladell Robbins as President and I decided that I would become involved by serving as Freshman Class Chair. That started a long road for the BSM and me. As secretary, I developed a greater love for the BSM, but it was as Vice-President that my love deepened. Now, as President, words cannot express what I feel. The Black Student Movement has become such an integral part of my life that I'm not sure how life would be without it. During my campaign for President, I promised myself that I would not let BSM "take over my life." Well, I can't quite say that this hasn't happened, but I can promise that every member of the BSM can expect 110% devotion from me. Ever since the day that YOU have allowed me to lead, I have tried to do what I believe is best for the organization. These first few weeks of school, I have tried to implement my CPR platform. For those of you who don't know what it is (or did not vote for me) let me explain:

- C: Continued meaningful dialogue with the Chancellor on the implementation of the 22 Demands;
- P: Promote the continued movement to restore BSM back to its original level of prestige and pride within and outside the organization; &
- R: Recruit and Retain upperclassmen involvement within the BSM

My efforts to achieve these "promises" have been demonstrated in several different ways. Currently, under the leadership of Executive Assistant Delvin Davis, the BSM is trying to make significant progress on the demands. Also, the Upperclassmen Council Committee, led by Kana Spivey and Stephanie Rodman, was created and has already scheduled numerous programs directed to Black upperclassmen. As far as the "Movement" is going...well, there will always be battles, so don't SLEEP!!

Members, I urge you to stay involved. The Executive and Central Committee Chairs have been working diligently to provide various opportunities not just for members, but for the community at large. At this time I want to personally thank everyone on "our staff" for everything that they do. I always tell people that my job is made easier by the Central Committee. The BSM would go on without me, but without them, no way! One special person that deserves a big THANK YOU is Dr. Harold Wallace, our Faculty Advisor. I could not do it without you and Mr. Ervin. But my question to you (the readers)...what are you doing? Do you just come to the meetings to have your face seen, or are you actively participating? Do you even care about what is happening to black students? Please stop making excuses about why you cannot do this and cannot do that. The day is coming when I will have to stand before you and ask for your support on issues that deserve immediate action. So please do not try to think of a million reasons why you should not participate, but be thinking about a million reasons why it is imperative that you do.

I'm going to wrap this up (because you know I can talk for days), but I cannot express enough how thankful I am to be in this position. This is not a glamorous job, but one full of personal fulfillment and purpose. Whenever times get rough and I look like I need about 50 more hours of sleep, I tell myself that I would not have it any other way. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President, and I hope for a very successful year!

See YOU at the next meeting! Wednesday, 5:30 PM in Upendo for those of you who have forgotten!

Uhuru Ni Upinduzi

Tamara Bailey
BSM President