



# A Conversation with Matthew Shaw

## one on one with Brad Matthews

**Considering you are at the halfway point in your tenure, how do you feel your term as SBP has gone?** It is a constant educational experience. It is a process by which you learn more about what you should have been doing every day. I do think that we have been extremely effective however. We established an on-campus poll site at Morehead Planetarium. The Campus Calendar is coming online; It should be available next semester. I'm happy with what we have done so far.

**What things do you wish you could have done better?** We needed to have a more coherent idea with how to reach out to student organizations. That is one of the things about this office. You're only in office once. You don't get that second chance to improve on your mistakes. The only thing we can do is to pass down our experiences to the next administration.

**With the installation of a new chancellor, how have relations been between his office and your administration?** Chancellor Moeser has been great. He has been great to work with and is very receptive to student government. Our direct contact with him has been limited; however, he is very available to the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor (SACC). A case in point: There were no undergraduates on the search committee for the Vice

Chancellor for Research. With new focuses being placed on undergraduate research, we thought there should be representation on the committee. We talked to him and now there is an undergrad on the search committee. You may soon see the Chancellor going door-to-door with us for Cabinet recruitments for next semester.

**What are some of the major accomplishments of your administration?** We are still working on Fare Free Transit with the local transit authority. We believe that students should not have to fork over \$250 each year for a bus pass. We are in the process of rewriting election laws to accommodate the new online voting system. We have also been assured that there will be clocks in every classroom starting next semester. In conjunction with the General Alumni Association, we are sponsoring a Life Skills Seminar in which students are taught practical life skills like how to purchase a car, manage a budget, etc.

**How do you encourage minority participation in Student Government?** I believe that we have one of the most diverse cabinets that Student Government has seen. We tried to include people from all walks of life to better represent the student body. I believe that all students need to realize the effect that Student Government has on policies, then I think that participation will increase.

**Could you give us a brief history of your involvement with the**

### **Black Student Movement?**

The first meeting I attended was the elections forum for student body candidates my freshman year. I was intrigued by how the meeting ran; so I went to the next meeting, which was the BSM elections forum. Tamara Bailey approached me after she won (the presidency) and asked me if I was a member. She signed me up. For a white boy from Idaho the BSM is an incredible chance to see what life is like through others' eyes. This is the only opportunity on campus for a white male to walk in a room and be the minority. I believe that the only prerequisite to be a member of the BSM is to embrace its preamble and the idea of embracing a culture distinct from the dominant culture at UNC-CH. I take pride in the President's Choice Award I received from Tamara Bailey at the 1999 Umoja Awards.

**How would you like students to remember Brad Matthews?** I don't honestly think that they will remember Brad Matthews. I am interested in making a difference. I am interested in seeing 10 years from now a polling site on campus at Morehead Planetarium, a Campus Calendar so complete that one can know everything going on on campus with just one click of a mouse and a better advising system. This administration is not about remembering me, but affecting change for years to come.