

Stump the SBP Candidates

The 2001-2002 candidates for student body candidates were asked to respond to the following questionnaire. Candidates were given a two-page limit to answer 15 very thought-provoking questions. When necessary, their responses were edited for length.

Dustyn Baker
Junior, Communications



What is the most important issue you feel minorities face on this campus and why? Admission, retention, and recognition. Without additional minority students, our university risks the chance of not being a true microcosm of North Carolina or America as a whole. As the Office of Minority Affairs was reviewed last year, BSM members learned for the first time that the Office was not a permanent and definite fixture on campus. We must ensure that we have a stable and fixed presence on the campus. Recognition is also important to Black Students. I'm sure we have all been in classes, on committees, or even organizations and have felt lost or unappreciated by the University administration and student government. If we were appreciated, the slave graves behind Winston would already be marked. If we were truly appreciated, there would be more African-American faculty members.

Why are you running for Student Body President -really? (no middle of the road or general, I want to help the students, answers please) I am running because it's time for a Student Body President to be the real voice of students; not just promote the agendas they think are important to students.

What sets you apart from any other candidate attending our BSM forum? As an active 3-year member, I have not stopped being a member of the BSM; I have been a leader for the BSM. Within the BSM I have served as Subgroup Coordinator on the BSM Central Committee, EROT President, and member of the Political Action Committee. Within student government positions I continue to represent BSM concerns. I always make sure to express the views of the BSM through all of my student government positions. I have done so by representing students as a member of the Student Advisory Committee to the Board of Trustees, as an Executive Assistant for the Student Body President, and as a member of the newly formed Academic Advising Board. Finally, I am the leading African-American candidate who will work for all students and always stand strong for the Black Student Movement.

If you were locked in a room with all 500 members of the BSM for 30 seconds right before they went to vote, and you could say only 3 words,

what would they be? Stand for something.

Are you familiar with the 22 demands of the BSM? How do you feel about them? Yes. The 22 demands in 1967 have greatly increased minority enrollment, created the Office of Minority Affairs, and created the African and African-American studies department. Therefore, I am definitely grateful of the original BSM members who set forth such a forthright agenda. Because certain issues from the 22 demands have not been met, I have included parts of the 22 demands into my platform. For instance, by the end of my tenure in office, you can be guaranteed that even if I must go to the graves and straighten them up myself, the grave sites of our ancestors will be refurbished.

Why is it important to you to have the BSM's support in this election? The BSM is not merely a name for me; the BSM has been my family for three years. The BSM is my family, and I will fight for the BSM members, as I will do for all students. For the BSM to achieve its absolute potential on campus, we must support a consistent member. I need my family to help win the election for us; I need the BSM.

Ask the BSM a question. Can we bring back the red Kool-Aid from 1998?

Larry Harper
Junior, Political Science

What is the most important issue you feel minorities face on this campus and why? I feel that black students on campus are still subject to being stereotyped by whites. We as different races unconsciously segregate ourselves according to race because it reinforces our comfort levels. We refer to each other as friends during the week and converse in the Pit, but when we are putting together the group for a night out, how many of us reach for the phone and call up our peeps of other races and see what they are doing? I challenge everybody who reads this to give a ring to someone who they will call out in the Pit, but don't call up on the weekend because they'd be the only white/black in the group and buy them a drink in the name of race relations. I want this election and subsequent school year to be about a coming together of races. I would find more joy in receiving 300 votes from BSM members and lose the election, knowing that people believed in a cracker to reach out to all races and help bring together the campus rather than getting a large vote from Frat Court and winning the election, knowing that this election was just like every year before where the students mindlessly voted for the person that looked the most like their friends.