



THE VOICE



FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TEXT

TO: Board of Trustees of Fayetteville State University
FROM: The Executive Council of Fayetteville State University Alumni

The Executive Council of Fayetteville State University Alumni has been investigating the unrest at Fayetteville State. We have talked with faculty members, students, the president, and community leaders, and we are presenting our findings.

Fayetteville State was never designed to be an Ivey League school, but a small college, and now in name, a university. Students have come to this institution, many of them, because it is small, and they feel that they can get individual and personal attention.

We have been told that Dr. Lyons has stated that it would be unheard of to have a democratic society at Fayetteville State; that the Board of Trustees had elected him as president, and that he is the sole person to make all decisions.

Last summer when a professor used a lady who was eminently qualified with a Master's degree in her field and requested that she be hired, another person, who is a life-time friend and teacher of the president and less qualified was hired.

One of the faculty members who was interested in community affairs and a member of a governing body of Fayetteville resigned because she was not trusted to make any type of decisions; and not given a momentary consideration; no vacation; and meetings were called during the Christmas holidays -- was required to sign in at eight in the morning. If she could have remained on the faculty, the students could have appreciated her.

Our fellow alumnus who participated in all civic and community affairs beyond his loyalty and duty at the University also resigned when demands became intolerable.

The history professor, who had his program geared along the line of "black history" which is of paramount interest to the students, was replaced by a white professor.

The faculty has not been treated as professionals. Their opinions are not respected.

The fear on the part of teachers, and lack of cooperation and disrespect to the teachers on the part of the administration, have caused teachers not to be able to perform at their peak.

One point of disorganization was the registration at the end of the first semester. It was stated by those concerned that it was a night-mare like Fayetteville State has never experienced before.

Hundreds of bills were sent to parents who did not owe anything stating that unless bills were paid by a certain time students would be dropped from their classes. Perhaps, this was not due to the president -- but inefficiency on the part of the Business Office. It was felt that the President of the University should have sent letters of apology to the parents. This would have shown a thought of concern to the parents of the students who make up the University.

There has been a staff member from the university authorized (not a part of the official body of the General alumni) to encourage the alumni and chapters to be re-organized.

There was a workshop set up for the alumni in August, which did not materialize and another in October of which the Executive Board of the Alumni was not involved in the planning. We were told that we were out-dated and we needed to re-organize, whereby, all funds would be channeled directly to the university.

The president has been requested to write a letter of greetings for the ALUMNI BULLETIN on several occasions. We do not have that as yet.

The Athletic Program is the most pathetic thing at the school. We were told that the university doesn't attract the crowd; the "E.E. Smith High" does. It was further stated that the Athletic Program is at its lowest ebb.

More time will -- do more hard than good because we are going to lose the better qualified professors at the university -- and we are going to miss the recruitment of the higher quality of students. The alumni have already become disenchanted, which means that the financial aid of the alumni will be dwindling. The longer the time with the present situation, the more danger of the school becoming disintegrated.

As trustees of the university, you owe it to the state, university, students, the faculty, the alumni and University community to investigate immediately the status of the school with the Southern Association of Accreditation of Colleges and Universities and to investigate the school finances. It has been brought to our attention that the school accreditation is in jeopardy.

Dr. Lyons might not have created all the above situations, but it seems that he has allowed these situations to exist and has created an image among students, faculty and alumni, which can no longer exist -- and definite steps should be taken to try to bring the university back to its proper perspective.

The survival of Fayetteville State is much more important than any one person.

LET TRUTH OUT

Now is The Time

by Carl Lee

Yes, now is the time for (black) students here at FSU to take grips of themselves and excel by their own bootstrap. It's time to stop going through phony changes; it's time to take on a more serious perspective in everything that involves both you and your fellow Broncos!

Previously, Delphine Robinson and I, through the Board of Higher Education, attended a two-day visit with Senators to discuss legislative issues and to see the legislative processes at close range.

I observed extremely close everything said and done in the committee meetings; of course, here is where I learned the most, because when bills get to the House of Representatives and the Senate, they are mostly legislative procedures.

In sharing my knowledge with you, I would like to clear up a couple of rumors or lies. It has been said that if this school were closed down because of student disorder or unrest, students would lose their financial aid and could not receive any more anywhere else up until five years. I have learned that the state of North Carolina does not have a law directly to this effect, but may have one on misconduct of students. The federal law says that a student will lose his financial aid as a result of student disorder if convicted and only if convicted, then one may attend another institution on aid according to how that particular institution operates.

Secondly, it has been said that everything has to go through the Board of Higher Education and to be approved. Well, contrary to that, I learned that the Board of Higher Education serves as a barrier or screener between you and the general

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BEFORE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ALUMNI BLASTS LYONS ALEX. BARNES' TEXT

Mr. Chairman and members:

Permit me to begin by thanking you for having granted us this opportunity. I hasten to say to you that this presentation is made without hope of reward or fear of punishment. It is not proposed to convict or to free, to threaten or to praise, but is being presented in the hope that it will serve to bring our beloved alma mater in step with the signs of the times, so that it might serve the purpose for which it was designed -- to make the lives of those who enter the portals of this institution more helpful in the communities, they go out to serve and to open a better line of communication.

This presentation is based on 50 years of loyal devotion, unselfish service and an abiding faith in the true principles of a properly administered program, that will enure to the best benefit, not to the administration, the faculty, nor the alumni, but to the students, who choose to further equip themselves for service, at this institution.

We have been conducting a wholesale investigation, which did not begin with the present administration and will not end with this presentation. The investigation, so far, has revealed that Fayetteville State University is suffering from a bad state of ineptness, on the part of its trustee board. This has been steadily creeping up on the institution and its

much to be deplored that it had to erupt under the present administration. We are mindful of the fact that much of the present unrest was not planned by the present administration, but we are highly conscious that this august body must rise to the occasion and seek to extricate the school from its present entanglements. It rests upon your shoulders to furnish the necessary guidelines to insure a democratic administration that will respect the rights of faculty and students, without fear or favor. The duty devolves upon you to select a president and a faculty whose first consideration must and shall be the students. This does not mean that administration is vested in the hands of faculty and students, but it must be the kind of administration that is designed to make FSU a beacon for conducive learning, devoid of personalities, petty politics and autocracy.

We are sorry to relate to you that our investigation, so far, tends to show that this has not been the prevailing ideology. We would also like to point out that unless this body moves with considerate speed, it bids fair to become more and more intolerable. Even though the present image is precarious, the rumblings and reactions tend to jeopardize the future of the institution to an irreparable state.

Our investigation reveals that the lap of the gods hold untold advantages for our alma mater and the results obtained therefrom would stagger the imagination of many of us. Unless this body acts with alacrity there is possibility that these dreams will vanish and FSU could easily be a matter of history.

We dare not say to you that we have all the answers and we also know you cannot prognosticate the future, we do know that the power of control is in your hands. You can

carry the ball to victory or you can let the evils of autocracy, domination, politics and personal aggrandizement squeeze us into oblivion. You can win the battle and yet lose the war.

It is our understanding that the laps of the gods hold one of the most inviting expansion educational systems that any school in the state would be happy to administer. The combination of a program that includes FSU, NCSU and Ft. Bragg is easily the envy of any college or university. We hope you learned solons and astute educationally minded persons, will take into consideration the fact that this is a giant step and we must have the kind of leadership that can cope with the situation.

Let me close by saying to you that due to the fact our investigation is not complete, it is the consensus that the present administration has not exemplified the type of know-how that it takes to administer such an elaborate program. We are asking that you approach this matter with an unbiased mind, a progressive design and an edifying spirit, that will bring peace out of confusion, cooperation out of chaos, profound leadership to a groping administration and aid in making the world better, by having dispensed a quality education to those who saw fit to matriculate at FSU, and to others who will follow after them.

IF YOU LOOKED AT SOME CITY DUMPS, YOU'D SPELL IT EEK-OLOGY!

