

**BLACK STUDENT NETWORK
EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17, 1994**

Those Present:

Eric Bailey
Angela Banks
Kelvin Brown
Gary Ellison
Verna Lamar
Wilma Harris-Merritt
Stacey Mattison
John McCall II
Kelleye Nelson
Zara Sadler
Francine Walton

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm and brief introductions were made by all present.

I. Our needs

K. Brown facilitated the discussion by asking those present what the needs were of those gathered as it relates to African-Americans at Emory University School of Public Health (EUSPH). E. Bailey suggested that since our needs are quite broad, one approach to addressing these needs is to consider the temporal parameters. He suggested that we consider our needs from semester to semester.

Those present comprised a list of needs which are as follows, but not limited to:

- 1) Thesis opportunities
- 2) Better communication in general
- 3) Better representation at every level from student government to faculty
- 4) Social support
- 5) Employment opportunities during and after tenure at EUSPH

II. How to address needs

E. Bailey asked the members to consider solutions in conjunction with barriers.

III. Purpose

This item was not specifically addressed.

REFERRAL: This is possibly an agenda item for the next meeting.

IV. Formal vs. Informal

W. Harris-Merritt expressed the need to be formal to get the benefits that come with this recognition from the student government, administration and the university as a whole. Z. Sadler mentioned that the question was not really whether to become formal but when.

ACTION: It was moved, seconded and accepted that we become a formal organization from its inception.

S. Mattison suggested that we seek the advice of Black faculty members. K. Brown suggested that we formalize our agenda before inviting faculty support. The consensus was to do both.

ACTION: It was approved to invite Alicia Sierra and a member from the appointee from the student council who handles the development of new organizations to discuss the procedures regarding becoming a formal organization.

G. Ellison stressed the need to have structure from the beginning. W. Harris-Merritt suggested that we elect interim officers to add in the development of the organization. Z. Sadler mentioned that a treasurer is needed since resources are limited and administrative duties of the organization do require funds such as expenses incurred by photocopying and mailings.

ACTION: The following members were elected to interim offices:

- K. Brown- President
- W. Harris-Merritt-Vice President
- Z. Sadler-Secretary
- S. Mattison-Treasurer
- E. Bailey- Sergeant at Arms

S. Whitfield, a recent graduate May-1992, also stated the need for contacts with job opportunities. She also mentioned that she personally knew of other recent graduates who were excited about the formation of the organization.

V. Presentation (Naming organization)

Z. Sadler mentioned the intense dialogue that was exchanged in trying the design the flyer for tonight's meeting. E. Bailey mentioned that no matter what the name turns out being, there will always be someone with a opposing viewpoint. It is noted that the name should not prevent this organization and its effort from becoming effective.

ASSIGNMENT AND REFERRAL: After much discussion, it was decided to list the possible names of the organization which will be voted on at the next meeting. It was suggested that those interested should reflect on this item and bring back suggestions to the next meeting.

The list is as follows, but is not limited to:

Black Student Network-BSN
Association of African Descendants-AAD
People of Color in Public Health-PCPH

QUESTION: W. Harris- Merritt asked if there was any other organizations on Emory's campus which could represent our needs. If so, then it is possible for just establishing a chapter as opposed to a charter.

ANSWER: K. Brown stated that there was no such organization on this campus or associated with EUSPH that addresses the specific needs of students and graduates in public health and that these efforts were definitely needed at the campus. Z. Sadler mentioned that nationally, there are two organizations she is aware of that are related to public health; the Society for the Analysis of African-American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI) and the Black Caucus of Health Workers (BCHW).

ASSIGNMENT: Those interested are asked to bring to the next meeting material on any national or international organizations which they feel might be similar to ours.

VI. Where do we go from here?

W. Harris-Merritt mentioned the need to develop a mission statement. K. Brown added that an election of officers would be necessary once the organization is more defined.

In the interim, G. Ellison agreed to be our representative at student council.

VII. Logistics

ACTION: It was unanimous to have meetings on the first and third Thursday of the month at 8:00pm while the organization is still in its infancy.

ASSIGNMENT: Members were asked to submit by Feb. 24, 1994 a list of other EUSPH students and/or recent graduates who might be interested in joining this effort to Z. Sadler's mailbox (4th floor in the Bios. Dept).

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 1994 at 8:00pm in the DeHaan Room

The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Zara E. Sadler, Interim Secretary