

U-M BLACK STUDENT UNION ISSUES MILITANT DEMANDS

Release from the Black Wolverines January 21, 2013

On Tuesday, November 19 2013, The Black Student Union launched the Twitter campaign #BBUM (Being Black at University of Michigan) with the purpose of giving the neglected 4.6% of black students a voice. The campaign brings attention to the fact that marginalized students do not feel at home. Michigan is a place that molds the world's Leaders and the Best from *every* academic discipline to the most influential ranks of leadership imaginable.

From the White House to Teach For America to the Peace Corps, on every point of every corner of the globe, the legacy of Michigan is the **audacity** to be ambitious about its pursuit of social justice; it has inspired this moment *and* our initiative to extend the legacy of the University's 1970s Black Action Movement into 2014.

In the Spirit of the Black Action Movements, We, the Black Students of the University of Michigan, release our 7 demands to President Coleman and the University's Board of Regents.

Our demands are as follows:

1. We demand the University give us an equal opportunity to implement change, the type of change that can only be completed with a full restoration of The Black Student Union's purchasing power through an increased budget.
 2. We demand the University give us available housing on central campus for those of lower socio--economic status at a rate in which students can afford to be a part of university life, and not just on the periphery.
 3. We demand for an opportunity to congregate and share our experiences in a new Trotter Multicultural Center located on central campus.
 4. We demand an opportunity to educate and be educated about America's historical treatment and marginalization of groups of color through race/ethnicity requirements throughout all schools and colleges within the university.
 5. We demand for an equal opportunity to succeed with emergency scholarships for black students in need of financial support to eliminate the mental anxiety of not being able to focus on and afford the university's academic life.
 6. We demand for increased disclosure of all documents within the Bentley Library. There should be transparency about the University and its past dealing with race relations.
- Lastly and most importantly,
7. We demand an increase in black representation on this campus equal to 10%.

We ask that the University understand that we are prepared to do what is necessary at any given moment if these demands are not met. We have heard the University say the phrase "We're listening" since 1970 and we are tired of waiting for a response.

Waiting to be acknowledged and understood. Waiting for 44-year old promises from BAM I to be fulfilled.

We shouldn't have to wait, just like the University shouldn't *only* respond after a National Media Outlet's pressured and informed them of our coming actions. This University should invest in our well--being because we invest in it. They should invest because after all the struggle of being brown and black on this campus, when we bleed, it is the same color as everyone else: Maize and Blue.

We fully expect the University to respond to our demands verbally, but without action, alternatively we will be forced to engage as an entire community through ways that will implement change. We will allow the University 7 days to complete all negotiations and comply with our 7 demands. If they are unwilling to do so by Monday, January 27, 2014 5:00pm EST, we will be forced to do more, being increasingly valiant in our physical activism for social progress on the University of Michigan's campus.

Yours in Earnest,

The Black Wolverines