



Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 21, 2011

Present:

IU Northwest members – Jesse Allen, Christopher Anderson, Ricky Anderson, Jr., Roy Lee Cast, Jr., Brandon Crowder, DeJuan DeVoe, Chisonna Echeumuna, Brandon Hearne, Oscar Hinton, Jose Meza, DeAndre Nwannunu, Davonte Piggee, Henry Powell, Kehinda Pryor, Kenneth Williams

Ivy Tech Community College-Gary Campus members – Wayne Howard

SAAB Faculty and Staff – Alan Roger Currie (B2B Program Coordinator), Ashley Howard (B2B Undergraduate Assistant), Jeffery Moseley (Coordinator, Office of Diversity Programming), Cory Thames (B2B Graduate Assistant), James Wallace (Temporary Director, Office of Diversity Programming)

- I. The eighth meeting of the Fall 2011 Semester began at approximately 8:20 am. Mr. Currie opened up the meeting and DeJuan DeVoe led the membership in prayer.
- II. New SAAB members and/or Guests in Attendance
 - A. Ricky Anderson, Jr. and Brandon Crowder, both new members and IU Northwest students, introduced themselves to the group.
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Mr. Currie reiterated that each and every SAAB / B2B members is to give their professors a copy of the Fall 2011 Academic Progress forms. Members are to give one copy of the form to each of their professors by no later than Saturday, October 15, 2011, and no later than Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the absolute latest. Each professor will then provide a midterm grade for each SAAB / B2B member and an assessment of their class attendance.
 - B. Mr. Currie also reiterated that from now on, the meeting minutes will be posted online and SAAB / B2B members will have to read and review the meeting minutes online. Once members have read the meeting minutes online, we will vote to approve them at Friday's meeting.
 - C. Academic Committee Co-Chairman DeJuan DeVoe again mentioned that early registration for Spring 2012 courses begins on Monday, October 31, 2011 online. DeVoe said there is no excuse for any SAAB / B2B member earning a letter grade of less than a "B-" or "C+". DeVoe said it is important that all SAAB / B2B members stay on top of their studies, and get help from their academic advisors and/or tutors if need be.
 - D. DeAndre Nwannunu, Chairman of the Personal & Professional Development Committee, and Christopher Anderson, Co-Chairman of the Personal & Professional Development Committee got word from ODP Coordinator Phyllis Barlow that there will be no speaker present on November 17, 2011 from the Urban Prep Charter School in Chicago, Illinois.

The event that we are collaborating with the ODP for is a play entitled "Our Young Black Men are Dying (and No One Seems to Care)" which will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2011.

The ODP would like many SAAB / Brother2Brother members to act as greeters and ushers for the event, which will be from 4:00pm CST until approximately 6:30pm or 7:00pm CST.

Anderson said that we should possibly seek out someone local from Northwest Indiana to come and speak on November 17th. Anderson encouraged all of the SAAB / B2B members to get actively involved with various community service-oriented events and activities.

- E. Brandon Hearne, Co-Chairman of the Spiritual Enrichment & Social Activities Committee, said he and Wayne Howard (Committee Chairman) are still investigating possible venues to hold the Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner, which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 20, 2011. President Pryor said that he may have one venue available for \$50.00 per hour, but he feels like the members should contribute \$10 or more each to pay for this venue if chosen.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Tavetta Patterson of the Gary Life Education Initiative, Inc. led a discussion about potential collaboration activities for SAAB / B2B members to get involved in, such as going to Lew Wallace school and speak to young boys and girls, or host these same middle school and high school students here at IU Northwest. Mrs. Patterson passed out folders for everyone in attendance.

Mrs. Patterson also cited relevant statistics and also stated how the majority of teachers are women and how it is important for male students to have male role models. She played a video about the program. Mrs. Patterson then opened the floor up for questions.

James Wallace asked logistical questions as it related to the members volunteering. Mrs. Patterson stated that depending on the consistency of volunteering and provided a packet which explained all logistics. Mr. Wallace posted the information so that the members could see possible volunteer opportunities with the organization. Mr. Wallace suggested to Mr. Currie that all of Mrs. Patterson's materials should be scanned and distributed to the membership.

Mr. Wallace stated to the membership and committees that this is a great opportunity for the committees to become active. He wanted to invoke the membership to seriously think about this excellent opportunity. Mrs. Patterson continued by citing several volunteer opportunities for the membership to consider as it would make a world of difference for the students they serve. The SAAB / B2B membership posed various questions to Patterson. Patterson thanked the membership for their time and thanked Mr. Moseley for helping her find the room.

- B. Mr. Currie stressed that each of the six SAAB / B2B committees should be meeting among themselves no less than once per month. Mr. Currie said with no committee activity, there is no Brother2Brother. Mr. Currie and Mr. Wallace challenged the Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of each committee to meet regularly, and then report back during the general membership meetings.
- C. Mr. Currie emphasized that each of the SAAB / B2B members who are planning on making the trip to the Men & Women of Color Leadership Conference arrive at IU Northwest on Friday, November 4, 2011 no later than 7:30 AM. Mr. Currie said he wants to be on the road no later than 8:00 AM. There are four vehicles traveling, with Mr. Currie driving one vehicle, Cory Thames driving a second vehicle, Jose Meza & Gabriel Sotres driving a third vehicle, and Jeffery Moseley driving a fourth vehicle.

V. General / Open Discussion

- A. Mr. Wallace stated to the membership information from the Tuskegee Literacy Event. He expressed how the setup of the airmen was intended for them to fail but they overcame that intent by working together and ultimately succeeded. "That is how B2B/SAAB should be, that is how the committees should operate."

Mr. Wallace continued with, "B2B/SAAB is desperately needed in this community given the changes in the community school corporation." Mr. Wallace acknowledged Mr. Moseley as someone who will be assisting the committees in making events happen. He admonished the membership to work with Mr. Moseley to make sure that the committees execute with excellence and to make sure that the committees are up and running.

- B. Christopher Anderson addressed the membership and admonished all to adjust their attitude on life. He then recited a poem that related directly to his statement. He passed out a copy of that poem and encouraged all to embrace a positive attitude on life.

- C. Oscar Hinton addressed the membership about academics and encouraged the membership to form study groups by any means necessary.

Mr. Currie acknowledged that Hinton comes to all of his scheduled 'One-on-One' meetings and is on time. Mr. Currie admonished that the membership take these 'One-on-One' meetings with him very seriously. "These meeting cannot be blown off," said Currie. Mr. Currie expressed his desire to know of the academic progress of each member on a weekly basis.

- D. Henry Powell Addressed the membership about writing papers and encouraged all members to use the writing lab.

- E. President Pryor and Wayne Howard emphasized that the camaraderie exercise should not be taken lightly. All SAAB / Brother2Brother members should make every effort to really get to know those members who they have been matched up with. The two said that this will make the organization stronger and more effective.

VI. Next Meeting

- A. It was determined that the next SAAB meeting will be on Friday, October 28, 2011 at 8:00am CST at IU Northwest in Hawthorn Hall, Room 107. The membership decided that all general membership meetings for the remainder of the Fall 2011 semester would begin at 8:00 AM.

VII. Adjournment

- A. SAAB / Brother2Brother member Chisonna Echeumuna led the membership in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:12 AM CST.