

Thursday February 28, 2008

President Ronald Thomas,

Tonight the BSU (Black Student Union) hosted a discussion forum entitled “The Black Experience at UPS”. This event, as most others, was under-attended. We feel that this under-representation of UPS community is fostered and perpetuated by a negative and adverse environment towards diversity and racial inclusion. We discussed some remedies that this university can, and is obligated to, approach and immediately put into action. These are essential in order to create a faculty, student body, administrative and curricular environment that is not only diverse in theory but in reality; in ideas, personalities, socioeconomic status, backgrounds, and all identity groups including and not excluding **race**.

This issue is of **emergency status**. We are aware that this type of action has been taken before by past Black Student Unions. We have spoken to several alumni and learned that the same issues and questions that plagued *their* UPS experiences - as far back as 40 years ago - still remain today. We are allied with members of the UPS faculty, Tacoma community, and members of the Race and Pedagogy Initiative.

This is a list of our demands thus far:

- A resolution to the “Thug Life” party
- Advertisement of diversity groups to new, incoming, and applying students.
- Required, on-going diversity training for the teaching faculty and administration.
- Core curriculum focused on racial and other social inequalities.
- Changes to the diversity statement to include race.
- More administration and faculty of color.
- Recruitment of students of color especially from the local community.
- More support and funding for diversity programs.
- More ethnic studies programs.
- African American and Native American Studies as majors.
- African American members on the Board of Trustees.

Again, this issue is of emergency status. We will not be pushed aside any longer. In our numbers we will not be able to fin in your office. We will be at your house at 8am Monday March 3rd to discuss these issues. We planned to speak with you tonight because we are extremely passionate about this subject. We have decided, out of respect, to set this meeting with you.

We look forward to seeing you,

Black Student Union and Allies