HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR BLACK STUDENT UNION: FORGING NEW IDEAS AND CRITIQUING DECADENT INSTITUTIONS

Khalil Masi
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Foreword

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful

I seek Allah’s protection from Satan, the rejected. I ask Allah to guide my heart and to guide my tongue. I seek refuge in Allah from misleading and being misled, from betraying and being betrayed into ignorance by others.

I wrote this ‘zine to help other student organizers across the globe. Now and in the past, everyday people have been sufferers of colonization, racism and various forms of feudalism. As for my race, the Black race, I am concerned particularly of our comprehension of this oppression. Too often do I see Black people trying to reform the United States instead of complete revolt. We must come to acceptance that we have fallen in love with the luxury and comfort of our oppressors. This has made us hold back in fighting and weak in self-restraint. From the political talking points I've witnessed by our activists and politicians, our goals seem to align with becoming the status quo. Most of us want reparations just so we can live equal to whites, as if that’s some sort of high standard. White’s in this country lead in suicide, divorce, drug addiction, porn addiction and depression. Yet a lot of what we ask for are things to make us equal to them. We want to be rich, we worship material items, we force our women to work and to have a high credit score. Our values are backwards, our values are congruent to those who oppress us, we will never liberate ourselves if we are constantly trying to imitate our oppressors. You cannot serve two masters. Black lives will never be able to matter until Black liberation matters. We must go back to our roots, our soul and our Creator; feed the spiritual appetite, plan, then fight. If we keep trying to feed our material appetite, we will
constantly be defeated. Our oppressors have plenty and they will give us just enough to appease our lower desires. A few blacks getting a promotion in corporate america is not a big deal, the wealth gap is too large for balance to be achieved that way. Diversity and Inclusion in a burning house should not be our goal. We must use our black radical imagination to redefine absolutely everything that this society offers and we must fight based on that. We cannot vote our way out of this, picketing is not enough either.

Secondly we must understand that our oppression in the United states is connected with other people around the world. Palestine is suffering from settler colonization, same as South Africa, the tech industry and oil and gas is ruining Mother Africa and making the continent uninhabitable for our distant relatives. We are all suffering from the same people, the people who are destroying the planet for profit, the ignorant, the evil, the rich. Certainly this can even bypass white supremacy. White supremacy and racism is a mental illness, however all whites do not have power and certainly not all of them hate black people. There are powerful Arabs, Africans, Europeans and Americans all turning a blind eye to the world's suffering. White’s cannot be singled out, even though they historically have led with either participation, consent or turned a blind eye to most of the atrocities within the past 500 years.

I struggle with using the terms Black and White, both are social constructs which help set a fixed place in the world and psychology for both peoples. Whites have certainly been robbed of their autonomy as well as blacks by even answering to these labels. Another reason why I struggle with calling Black people ‘black’ is because the etymology of the word black is based on paleness or whiteness. When looking at other languages influenced by latin, greek and nordic roots pertaining to the term ‘white’ the roots are
‘ble/bla’. Look up the word blanco, bleik, blekken, bleikr, bleach all of these words are in relation to white or paleness. Somehow black, which origin is related to paleness, is now used to relate to darkness. However this happened, I do not know. But when thinking of biblical instances that have been used to justify the subjugation or ‘cursedness’ of black people, like the Curse of Ham, I querry on who that curse may actually be on, if it's not completely made up. With that being said, the reader must know, I hate using the term ‘black’ and would rather use the term African, because it connects us to our continent and diverse culture. I ask white people to reconsider calling themselves white and revert to calling themselves european. It helps clear all confusion about where we stand in this slave built, settler colonist country.

As for the students who are reading. You must educate yourself, stay in touch with our Creator and fight consciously. Solidarity over everything. Allah (swt) says in the Quran (49:13) “ O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.” So I extend my hand to all of mankind, let’s not fight for individual riches, but for global peace. Solidarity for a Righteous cause smashes the brains out of individualism and ignorance.

I wrote everything in this zine at some point during my college organizing. The speeches and email’s attached were sent by me to college administration or orated in front of an audience.
P.S I would like to give a special salaam to Manju Freeman and Jerjuan Howard, these men were my comrades in struggle, we organized our asses off. What is understood need not be explained! Allahu Akbar!

May this ‘zine be a tool; I pray that Allah is pleased with me. Amen

I invite all of you to Islam.

Asaalam Alaikum,

In peace strong, in battle strongest

Allah’s Slave, Br. Khalil Masi

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Introduction

Peace Family, this is a revolutionary pamphlet from our Black Student Union to yours. This pamphlet is to help organize Black Student Unions across the country. Our campus has had nearly 70 years worth of black radical organizing. We exist on a predominantly white campus. At Western Michigan University only 10% of our student body is Black. However, we can say that our organization is the strongest organization on campus. We don't just have the biggest barbecues or most instagram likes, we really organize, we fight for change. Our tradition is deeply rooted in the ways of
the Black Panthers, Malcom X, W.E.B Dubois, Black Liberation Movement and many many more.

Though our experience is different from Historically Black Colleges & University, we recognize that HBCUs have similar issues because the institutions follow the same economic plan as PWI’s, such as farming students for capital, corrupt chancellors, overpaid and underproductive administration, and too secure or too insecure faculty. The purpose of this pamphlet is to help Black Student Unions/Org. to organize and combat the tyrannical power structure that exists on their campus. We know that no struggle is identical, every campus is different, but we believe we have created a strong template to pass along.

Right now Blacks in America are in a worse position than they were 50 years ago. The question is what are the universities we give our money to, doing to solve it. A university is to function as the hub of community problem solving. Does your university reflect that? What is your University doing to address

- Blacks are twice as likely to be unemployed after college graduation than whites.
- The default rate for Black students is 4x as likely as whites.
- By 2028 over 50% of American jobs will be non-existent, affecting blacks the most.
- Low black graduation rates.
- Low black faculty.
- Blacks being policed on and near campus more than any other student.
- Black faculty signed as adjunct professors and rarely tenured.
- A curriculum that teaches grecko-roman white mythology passed off history.
- Your university is run like a corporation instead of a hub of education
We hope you organize and fight aggressively. Black students aren’t the only people depending on your BSU. The entire student body benefits when you fight corruption and tyranny.

Quotes

“Whoever wants to know a thing has no way of doing so except by coming into contact with it, that is, by living (practicing) in its environment. ... If you want knowledge, you must take part in the practice of changing reality. If you want to know the taste of a pear, you must change the pear by eating it yourself.... If you want to know the theory and methods of revolution, you must take part in revolution. All genuine knowledge originates in direct experience.’” – General Mao Tse Tsung

“Action without thought is empty. Thought without action is blind.” – Kwame Nkrumah

“Revolution comes when human beings set out to correct decadent institutions.” – Imam Jamil Al Amin

“There are not more than five musical notes, yet the combinations of these five give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard.”– Sun Tzu

“Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.” – Fredrick Douglas
Three Pillars of Black Student Union

The Black Student Union's key aim is to unify and strengthen students of African, African American and/or Black descent. Through the efforts of understanding the mass’ concerns and demands, Black Student Union's duty is to strategically organize itself into a proactive environment on campus for students of African descent.

The three pillars of Black Student Union

**Kinship** - The restoration of social bonds within the black community is a must. The stronger the kinship is on campus; the more successful students will have in
all aspects. The Black Student Union can serve as a leading instrument in creating the group-feeling that is necessary for graduation and on-campus & community activism. Building kinship is not easy. The Willie Lynch Syndrome is still in us along with neo-liberal ideas that are pumped into our community, such as diversity and inclusion, black capitalism and sexual promiscuity in college. Any event can build community. but here is a list:

- Try to collect resources and feed as many students as possible by cooking at someone’s house. And always do it in the name of the organization.
- Tutoring
- Book clubs
- Outdoor barbecues
- Healing circles
- Exercise groups
- Group prayer
- General Body Meeting
- Meetings with other non-black radical groups

The most important part to any organization or religion is their weekly meeting. When people begin to meet and relate with each other team spirit begins to develop. A meeting every two weeks will not be effective in strengthening kinship.

**Education**— All social movements are based in education, coming from the dark into the light. The organization must make the students understand their oppression in the world and on campus. It is not enough to speak about police brutality, mass incarceration, colorism, and identity politics. Topics which are important are Capitalism vs Socialism, School versus Education, Non-Violence vs Violence, Reformation vs Revolution, Elections vs Self-Determination, Racism vs Solidarity, Collectivism vs Individualism, Their vision of the future vs the oppressor’s, and how power flows throughout the
administration faculty and staff. This will get
students to question the world they live in, and at
the same time, give them the framework to begin
creating their own ‘thing’. Organizing a book club is
a great chance to get to know each other better and to
work with those who would like to deepen their
understanding of capitalism and white supremacy as
well as developing solutions to combat it.

**Advocacy**— Kinship + Education= Advocacy. If
the first two pillars are being fulfilled, then the
third is inevitable. If we know thyself and know thy
enemy, we shall win every battle. The Black Student
Union understands everyone can fight but everyone
cannot win. To win you need a program, the first two
pillars increase the likelihood of success in black’s
socio-political fight for equity. The Black Student
Union must resist tyranny and oppression. The Black
Student Union is not to represent the establishment.
The Black Student Union understands institutional
racism exists and the establishment will act like a
wolf in sheep's clothing to pacify its resisters.

To every ideology there should be a strong methodology
behind it. You must develop a systematic program to
restore, teach and organize the students

**Controlling Narratives**

Black politics are revolutionary politics, and all
black life is political. The Black Student Union has
been fighting since the mid-1960s. Therefore, the
establishment will see most black ideas, wants & needs
as radical or ludicrous. The radical is dissatisfied
with society & wants fundamental change. It is hard to
not be one and be black. Most universities were
structured far before blacks were allowed on campus.
The institution’s fundamentals were designed without black influence, and it’s still apparent in 2020. With black activism intrinsically being radical, the Black Student Union must fight for change differently than any other existing group.

One principle out of four that must be instilled in the leaders and the public-relations manager(s) is to **win public opinion at all cost**. If the Black Student Union (or any black political group on campus) does not threaten the university’s image, then there is little reason as to why the university would change. The establishment lacks humility, self-awareness and morality. Though universities tend to be *liberal*, it does not mean they desire change. Liberals often already feel campus settings are utopian-like and any other kind of change must be within their comfort-zone. When black activists become boisterous in demanding immediate and profound progressive change, liberals are embarrassed by appearing to be lacking in their commitment to the very goals they ascribe. Black activists can make the liberal look like a hypocrite because black activists can question the liberal on their commitment to leftist goals. Thus, it seems the black activist must be silenced in liberal establishments to protect their image.

The belief that Reason & Diplomacy trumps ignorance and inspires change is naïve. If reason trumped ignorance, then blacks’ problems would have been solved centuries ago.

Do not get caught in the long bureaucratic process of diplomacy. The establishment has time on its side while the student has on average 3 years to inspire change (the first year as a freshman, typically, cannot be counted).
Methods

- Use Instagram & Twitter to highlight issues on campus routinely. Do not hold back. Be bold in your presentation. This will motivate your followers and catch the university off guard.
- Use public opinion polls so the community and establishment can see the consensus and dissatisfaction.
- Invite members and students to meetings that are generally closed to only executive board members and administration, allowing them to witness the resistance you receive from administration.
- Create YouTube vlogs, short-documentaries, and testimonial videos of students expressing their dissatisfaction with the university to show to administration & the public.
- Send mass emails out to administration & students

These are general methods to win public opinion at a university which should help gain leverage to bring about change black students oh-so-desperately need.

Here is an email that was sent out anonymously to all black students and all faculty, staff and administration

Where was Black Student Union?

They were downstairs.

I cannot say that I’m surprised by how Black Student Union is treated when visitors are in the house. It’s a classic scenario. Mom and Dad do not want to risk ruining their image, because their stubborn child might speak some truth to the neighbors, while at the dinner table. But who does this affect? It definitely makes the child feel discouraged, resulting in them giving up. Mom & Dad will never grow because they can’t handle criticism, further exacerbating the problem. Then the whole family falls apart. The answer is: It hurts both parties. So why keep doing it?

Martin Luther King Jr, The Radical Christian, The Love Warrior, The Greatest President the United States ever had, was not killed by the United States Government for his stance on identity politics. He began to understand how capitalism, imperialism and racism were intimately connected that is when he became a problem to the state, then he was killed. The Black Student Union is the chief organization that pushes Kings ideas and never is invited to speak publicly in front of the guest. Non-Blacks will never completely understand black oppression just like blacks will never understand white naivety. But what we can understand is what we share. That’s is that the majority of non-blacks and blacks are slaves to a system that has no empathy. Those in power benefit from our divide and lack of understanding of where the divide comes from and why.
Controlling public opinion is guerilla warfare is vital. Use whatever means you can to trap the university and motivate students; just do not confuse the students. You must be consistent in your position against the establishment. Data should also be included at times, over your Instagram or in your meetings, as an example showing the black graduation rate vs the white graduation rate. Ask students if the school's marketing is in line with the data being presented. Ask the students if they are being conned? Air this out so the community outside the university can see. Reach out to community organizers and begin controlling your narrative vs the university.

**Identifying power**

Your approach must be scientific and on the ground. All universities have an organizational chart (see figure.1). Find students who already work where the power lies, recruit them, and have them be informants. Have others befriend faculty, staff, and administration and see how much they are willing to gossip with you about the university or share insider information. This will give you an edge.

**Figure 1**

![University Organization Chart](image-url)
Most universities have a Board of Trustees in which they make the big decisions for the university, such as spending, construction, and firing presidents and provost. If the general administration will not meet your request, do a sit-in and give a speech addressing your concerns and demands directly to the Board of Trustees. Even this is being quite nice, you determine the weight of your hand. It helps to know the law. Here is an example of one given from one of our members.
Good morning,

I stand before you today, board of trustees, in request for a comprehensive survey or an audit to be done on the Office of Student Engagement and Student Affairs.

I am soon to be a [redacted] Alum, with a bachelor's in chemical engineering. I have led many organizations on this campus and the college I attended before transferring in 2017. I have witnessed and discussed issues pertaining to this university with peers, administration, faculty, staff and community members a countless amount of times. And so, it should be noted that I am not here speaking for myself, I am representing thousands.

I would like to share a few of the many issues we students have identified in the Office of Student engagement and Student Affairs.

There is a lack of structure in the office of student engagement. There are 300 plus RSOs being managed and directed by a staff of about 5 people. That is a 60:1 ratio, and might I add, one of those 5 employees is a grad-student. The underemployment of the office of student engagement has as a concern, but after years of working with the office I believe the general competency of those working can be questioned as well. The [redacted] Student Association is not managed or supported, treasurers do not have proper guides to help them administrate the Student Assessment Fee.

The lack of student engagement is low at [unredacted], in comparison to other universities within the state, and so is the graduation rate. It is a fact that 70% of student life is spent outside of the classroom, that is, in other words, 70% of students’ life being mismanaged. If [redacted] wants to become a school of choice it must become a student’s first choice and final choice throughout their collegiate career, what the university has now will not work. These facts may explain why enrollment is down for another year and why the drop-out rate grows.

I would also like to add there is a report titled [unredacted] Student Affairs Student Conduct Data Project, in the report it was found that Black or African American Students are overrepresented in the conduct process, when compared to institutional and on-campus housing demographics. African American students make up 10% of all students yet are 1 of every 5 students who are involved in the conduct process. All students are found to be responsible 80% of the time, which is shockingly high. When students are found responsible for transgression they can be expelled, suspended or have to participate in behavior training programs that cost. These fees are hard for most students to pay, being that [unredacted] University is primarily a school for the working class. For this we request Student Conduct be investigated thoroughly and a new process to be developed for finding students responsible or not responsible for offenses, cultural competency training of all admin, staff and faculty and for fees to be abolished in relation to disciplinary actions unless the offense relates to the damaging of university property.

Last year a comprehensive survey of all college deans took place, and 3 or 4 were fired. Similar action with a proper follow up might need to be explored for the office of Student Affairs and Student Engagement in order to find new solutions in bettering student life. This could benefit the business interest of the university and the education of the student.

It is clear that [redacted] University is trying to rebrand itself, buildings are being erected all over [redacted], I stand here today with no protest toward the endeavor. However, aesthetics are not all that makes a university great, just like a nice house does not make it a home. Group-feeling, culture and exploration is what makes a student proud of their institution, this is what makes alumni do more things than tailgating during the first three weeks of the football season.

I stand here today, representing a cross-section of current students and alumni. This transcends right and left politics, race, sex and all other isms. Therefore, I see it reasonable to pursue our request.

thanks.
Once you identify where the power lies, it is up to you to create an offense that can combat that power.

Here are some of the first militant black student demonstrations that took place in the United States.
Black vs. University
In 8 Hour Stand-off

Make Six Demands of U.
By DAVID MCKAY
News Editor

Black students here entered the University Student Center, Mon-
day, April 5, and held it against White intrusion for eight hours.
The demonstrators, claiming to be in mourning over the assasin-
ation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who died of a gunshot wound
the night before, entered the cen-
ter and chained the main doors.
Signs were carried or attached
bearing such slogans as "The
King Is Dead—Peace Is Also
Dead!!" "We must move from re-
sistance to aggression. From re-
sistance to revolution," "Henry, do
you human?" and "Who's the
peacemaker now, Honky?"—

Dr. James W. Miller, president
of the Student Center and deliv-
ered two prepared
statements to the demonstra-
tions and the spectators. In the
first, he described the sorrow
with which he viewed the death of "this distinguished theologian,
gentleman of thought, and leader
for non-violent action."

The second statement came as
a result of the Black occupation
of the Student Center. In it he de-
scribed the move as "certainly not
in keeping with the principles
of Dr. Martin Luther King. What
is now being done is a disservice
to memory of Dr. King." He added
that classes would be held as
usual and the hope that the
Black students would "return the
Center to its normal use, hopeful-
ly immediately." He then passed
copies of the statements through
the crowd that surrounded the
Center.

Following Dr. Miller's state-
ments, the suggestion was made
that classes be called to memo-
nize Dr. Martin Luther King.
Though Dr. Miller had said in
his official statement that classes
would remain in session, there
were those in the crowd who felt
that calling classes would be a
fitting tribute to Dr. King. The
suggestion was met with mixed
emotions from the crowd, com-
pared to that of White. "There's
something constructive," said one
in the crowd when it was sug-
gested that they go to the Presi-
dent's office to ask for cancel-
lation of all university classes.
Meanwhile, Denny Gedeo, a
WMU senior, told the spectators
of the memorial service at Kaney
Chapel and a memorial march to
be made to Bronson Park. March-
ers would meet Kalamazoo Col-
lege students there to hold a
service in memory of Dr. King. A
few of the students left for the
Bronson parking lot to await the
march.

While students gather outside the University Student Cen-
ter, barred by Black mourners inside.

Just in his decision against can-
celation.

While President Miller an-
swered requests for cancellation
of classes, a handful of faculty
members led by Dr. Milton Green-
berg, President of the Faculty
Senate, began to form between
the main doors of the Center and
the White spectators on the side-
walk. Several Whites had gone
through Skys Tower asking for
faculty support of the demonstra-
tions to the King funeral from
this university.

6. That the racist curricula be
examined at WMU.
President Miller then left the
Center to decide on his official
reply to the demands.

At about 9:30 a.m., a memorial
march started near Kaney Chap-
el and ended in Bronson Park.
Downtown. About 400 students,
majorly White, made the march
from the Chapel, where a short

student strike, Nov. 4 and 9.

Klonisky told the audience that
the student strike is the first of
three phases in the overall, ear-
ly November activities.
The strike can take many
forms, from taking over univer-
sities to walking out of classes,
holding a demonstration, and
then returning to classes.
The second part, Klonisky stated,
will be "Chicago type"
street demonstrations.

Charging that students will
evolve in the street on Nov. 5, he
said that change is brought
about in the street, not in the
polling booth.
The third phase is called GI
Week. An effort will be made
to inform soldiers and reservists
of the aims and positions of the
SDS and similar organizations.
Klonisky feels that many sold-
iers and reservists feel as he
does, but that they did not have
adequate counseling on how to

RICHARD SUTTON
"Conditions Need Change"

CHARLES SUTTON
"Schools Anti-Intellectual"

MICHAEL KLONSKY
"Strike Long Over-due"
Popular beliefs and practices from black students

Black students have been injected with a belief system that undermines collective black progress in this country. They are told that their desires will be met if they follow the prescription that the status quo prescribed. Prescriptions such as doing well in school, joining the student government, speaking a certain way, and investing your money in the system to get a return. If the prescription is followed, the black student begins to change. They begin to identify themselves and other blacks by how disciplined they are to these beliefs. The black student gets around their friends who are not ‘educated’, he then sees they do not practice what he practices and dissociates himself from them. His argument as to why he cannot hang with them isn’t because they are poor, and he is not. Likely the college student is poorer than the non-college student. The student believes his old friends are not successful because they have not “woken-up” enough, they are ignorant to the ‘right’ beliefs. The student fails to connect his university’s low black graduation rate & high college debt to their homies in the hood. This creates a stratification of powerless people, divided and conquered.

The stagnation of black progress on college campuses is the same. Blacks, who are succeeding by the system’s standards, stratify themselves from the dropout students and the 2.0 GPAs. The girl, who is in a sorority, sees herself as a more-evolved human than the girl who has not. If only 33% of blacks graduate from university and only 20% of blacks attend university. These students do not see a malfunction of the system. They see themselves as the 6% who are functioning properly while the 94% are practicing the
wrong belief system. Whoever failed had the wrong ideas, and whoever hasn’t failed in public has the right ideas. This sort of assessment black students use among each other and non-students can be done an infinite amount of times, causing mass stratification across the race.

Most resistance on campus is not between the Black LGBTQ+ Movement and the Pan-Africanist, it is between the activist and the fraternities and sororities, the business student vs the sociologist, etc. Beat fire with water, not fire with fire. There are plenty of reads from authors which present solutions and alternatives that do not serve white supremacy and capitalism.

The Community outside the University
Black people in the university are usually stratified from those within their community who are not students. It is a necessity that the organization is constantly in contact and organizing with community activists. University students should be organizing high school students. University students should be organizing welfare mothers because university students have certain skills that others do not.

Unity
It is not easy organizing students on your campus. It may be hard to get greek life involved or the black engineers. However, they do share similar experiences as we do. It is important that we try to get everyone on board. Start with the NPHC president, be respectful and earnest about the needs on campus and the role they have in organizing the Divine 9.. We stress ‘State of The Union” addresses shared by NPHC and the
leading non-greek Black Student Org. Put everyone in one room and begin to hash a revolutionary plan that meets the needs of all students. Break into committees and have the NPHC pres and B.S.U leader hold the committees accountable. Put deadlines on everything and meet with each committee every two weeks and ask for progress and action steps. Here is a message we sent out to the divine 9 that worked well. However, nothing beats a face to face relationship building. We must all be together, everyone has a role. Rely on the engineers and science students for mechanical, industrial and food security. The psychologist for social support networks. The business student for proper account handling and the arts and humanities majors for the theoretical/philosophical development of your program.
It's Time To Unite

Our struggle & frustration at [University name] can no longer be confined within our personal organizations. It is time to come on one accord, we have a duty to relieve our brothers & sisters and the future black students whom will come after us from the continuous hardship which we experience daily. The Black Student graduation and retention rate is at an all time low, our sisters and brothers are pushed into hallways and kicked out of buildings for practicing dance routines, our brothers are being expelled and suspended from [University name] at a high rate. We must stand in solidarity and show our commitment to civic engagement, community, brother/sisterhood, to maintain a progressive interest in college life. Now is the time we build a tradition not rest upon one. There is no better time than now to come together.

One reason our general condition has not changed, and in some cases deteriorated, is that We remain separated, psychologically and philosophically. We have no “space” in which we can come together. Year after year our organizations have struggled with coming together to achieve our shared goal: Black Excellence. Often we shift the blame on ourselves or each other. But let us not be so hard on ourselves, we have not been able to come together cohesively because there is no space to do so. This is why the Black Student Union, NAACP, Black administration, faculty and staff are coming together to fight for a “Black Student Space”.

A Black Student Space will give us area to come together, outside of the [dancers name] Center, our dance teams will no longer be humiliated, instead of students coming to organization meetings, organization meetings will come to them. This all is in aim to rebuild the social barriers of artificial division and by consequence, encourage high scholarship at large. As for resources, this space will help structure tutor programs, counseling for mental health, mentorship and shall have a grievance counselor who handle black students’ unfortunate racist encounters on campus.

Though every black student is not apart of the Divine Nine, the ability the Divine Nine has to invoke change, on our campus, affects every black student; which is why we are reaching out.

We are all leaders on campus and have commitments to serve our brothers & sisters. We must join together, on one accord, to achieve our goal: Black Excellence.
**Aggression**

Straight up, at some point the defense gotta become offense. Quit playing with these mf. The non-violence doctrine is racist. How can you tell a person who is being beat in every way possible to not fight back. It is natural for all things to preserve themselves; even a rose has thorns.

**Divestment**

Be honest and tell students to go to community college for their first two years, do not let them get caught in a debt trap. If the institution does not want to give up its power or concede your demands, students should begin to create a divestment campaign. Do not purchase anything on campus and begin looking for other schools. Here is a recent writing done encouraging divestment from the university.
Do Black Lives really matter To WMU?

No, but black dollars do. Black students at WMU make-up 10% of the student body; and the attention their needs receive is even less than that. Black students have come to realize that they’re being farmed for capital. We have been pumped then dumped by WMU.

The school has no solutions for the 37% graduation rate in 6 years by black students; nor can it justify why black students are counted for 10% of the student body yet make-up 20% of student misconduct violations.

The school is only concerned with recruiting black students, in order to maintain 10% of its revenue. The university wastes many black students time and money. Due to little to no resources in place for black students, they are forced into taking out loans. The poor allocation of funds with regards to black students is largely responsible for their low retention rates.

Black lives are not only threatened by police and rednecks but by debt peonage. Black students not given the proper tools to succeed, despite being recruited en masse, is indeed a debt trap. A violent mechanism capable of destroying the futures of many black men and women.

We understand we are “just business” to the university; so we at least demand the university does good business, for now on. If not we will unify and withhold our dollars and take our business elsewhere(by moving on to other universities and colleges).

Since the 1960s black students have organized at this university. First, the Black Action Movement then, the Black Student Union... to no avail, all suggestions, ‘Townhall’ meetings, etc. have fallen on deaf ears. We recognize our lives do not matter, however, our dollars do. If structural change is not brought then we will make our own exodus.

- k.masi

Leadership

The organization should eventually move in an egalitarian fashion. However, most movements begin with a few. Those few cannot be overly democratic too
soon as they must be the organization’s leaders. Discipline and standards have to be established. Once the movement gets underway, everyone must understand their role, while understanding they are a part of the movement. Not the movement itself. Moreover, they will likely always be some sort of leader, do not admonish them or alienate them, just make sure they are in proper balance constantly.

We Out

We hope this gives some insight on how to combat power and organize your black student union on campus. Peace. BSU