

Segall Offers Support to Black Students' Union

By Matthew Goldstein

After two weeks of controversy among the Black Students' Union, the SA Appropriations Committee, and the UR administration, SA President Adam Segall offered his support to the black community at last night's BSU meeting.

Segall said the events of the past two weeks made him aware of the seriousness of the problems confronting the black community.

In tentative budgeting the BSU had programs eliminated from its budget which it felt were necessary to promote black culture at the UR. And last week, anger over the budget cuts and the UR's record on black professor hirings precipitated a meeting between the BSU and UR President Robert Sproull.

"The situation for minorities on campus is not good," Segall said.

He said the BSU should push for persistent change, not radicalism. "The BSU must take 'a more moderate approach,'" he said.

He proposed the formation of an ad-hoc committee, headed by the BSU, to prepare a document listing the black community's specific grievances against the UR.

"The tangible evidence of a written document can be used as a tool to bring about change," Segall said.

Segall's proposal was questioned by some BSU members like Louis Sheppard, a history graduate student, who said, "I think you're just playing politics by proposing that we act moderately and I question the sincerity of your concern."

Segall acknowledged that he was playing politics. But he said that since the administration "is so institutionalized and bureaucratic the only way change will be brought about is by persistent paper pushing."

But another BSU member, Duane Barton said that "you can't pencil your way into the institution, you have to change the institution."

After the meeting Segall explained to a group of BSU members that he did not intend to demean the BSU's effort. He said the document prepared by the ad-hoc committee would only be the first step in an overall strategy to change UR policy.

Segall said his experience as SA President has taught him how to deal with the administration, and he wants to relay this information to the BSU.

Security Meeting

Zachary Harris, BSU president, announced that Sproull and Walter Mauldin, director of security, are going to meet with a number of BSU members to discuss harassment incidents of black students by UR security officers.

Harris also said that Provost Richard O'Brien wrote him a letter saying he was interested in re-instituting the Black Studies Center which existed at the UR 10 years ago. He will be meeting with J. Paul Hunter, dean of the College of Arts and Science, on this matter in the next few weeks.

Marion Walker, director of minority student affairs, said when he was a student at the UR the Black Studies Center only existed on paper. The BSU, he said, should try to get more than this in the future.



Deepak Viswanath/CAMPUSTIMES

SA President Adam Segall pledged his support of BSU concerns at their meeting in the Ruth Merrill Center last night.