

First, I would like to start off by acknowledging the immense amount of courage it took for all of you to come out here this morning in this cold, uncomfortable weather. I know standing out here in the cold is not easy, but we, of course, thank all of you for your support. I promise, we don't take it for granted.

To the faculty, staff and the entire University of Michigan community, your diligence in working even today on MLK Day while the rest of us have it off to help make this University a place that cultivates leadership is deeply encouraging and inspiring

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.

Unfortunately, what brings me here today is not because the fight for justice is complete. What brings me here today is the unfinished business of the first three fights for improved social actions: the BAM movements.

I come to you not as a leader, commander, or creator of the "black experience"; I speak to you as a single voice out of a sea of voices that share experiences that include isolation and exclusion. I come as a single voice that covets true equality. It is a fight that emerges from the clamor of broken promises and understated commitments to diversity.

It is the fight, angst, and anxiety I feel on our campus, in every classroom, lecture hall, and residential learning community that tolerates freedom of speech, both desensitized to and at the expense of my community's own public health, that brought me before you.

I assure you I am only a messenger and not an amplifier for every single person that felt as if they did not belong here on campus, despite their acceptance letter saying otherwise.

I assure you that any one person who feels frustrated or downtrodden because of unfulfilled promises or lack of oversight over policy geared towards social climate is only frustrated because they possess a desire for equality that is so strong not even a blow of unaccountability can burn the fight for equality.

I assure you that the fire for social justice and equal opportunity is just as alive now as it has ever been.

Our demands to elevate the visibility of students of color on our campus prioritizes the social standing of students of color on campus *as if* we are important, because we actually are.

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, similarly to how Robert Fleming did in 1970, our Provost Pollack earlier this week, and Mary Sue Coleman today; 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.

And on this day we will unite as Victors

Hail to the Leaders and Best!

Thank You