

Good Afternoon,

We are members of the National Alumni Association (NAA) of Shaw University and represent a variety of local Chapter leaders. We write this letter with a humble heart. Over the past several months, things have been happening that we feel as a group is not truly in the best interest of our beloved Shaw. As you are well aware, several bad decisions, along with poor management have forced the closure of several HBCUs. As we outline our concerns below, please understand that we are not questioning anyone's love for our beloved Shaw. However, we truly believe the actions, decision and lack of true leadership needs to be addressed. In order to facilitate our complete confidence in the leadership, we felt the need to address the following concerns:

Presidential Search Committee:

We feel this entire process is very critical to the future of our beloved Shaw. Based on the current financial situation that affects some recent revelations, we feel the entire process has been tainted and executed in such an unprofessional manner that the future of our University is at risk. Below are some of the concerns that have been presented to this group of concerned alumni:

- June 11, 2014: Article written in the HBCU's Digest entitled "Questions Loom Over Presidential Choice". The article stated "...Shaw University is expected to announce Anaheim University President Andrew Honeycutt as its next president, but questions are circulating around the choice and the process by which a finalist was named." The article implied that it appears the decision was being made outside of the process that was outlined by the Presidential Search Committee. Apparently there were three (3) finalists selected and Dr. Honeycutt was not one of them.
- June 12, 2014, The Chairman of the BOT responded to the article by stating "...in addition, the rules of the search were not changed...". Shaw University distinguished alumnus and Raleigh Hall of Famer Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr. chaired the search and H.E.A.L. Global Consulting served as our executive search firm. Mr. Zow, CEO of HEAL Global, Inc. and his firm received outstanding and glowing comments from the search committee chair and other distinguished members of the search committee for the manner in which he assisted Shaw University. He managed the process with the utmost professionalism, integrity and timeliness. To suggest any other assessment of the process would simply be untrue and inaccurate."
- June 26, 2014: Our BOT Executive Committee held a special meeting of its body to discuss the potential recommendation and appointment of Dr. Andrew Honeycutt as the 17th President of Shaw University. However, much deliberation and confusion surrounded a debate that was centered on the ability or lack thereof of the CEO of the executive search firm. Therefore, our illustrious Executive Committee finally realized that they did not have the votes and their recommendation was rejected. (18 to 0 unanimously)
- June 27, 2014: Members of the NAA Regional Vice-President Committee received an email from Dr. Honeycutt outlining his confusion with the entire process. He was under the assumption that he would be the next president of Shaw and started making arrangements to move to the area. Below is a chronological summary outlined by Dr. Honeycutt in his letter to the NAA Regional VPs:
 - May 31, 2014: Met with Executive Committee of the BOT. During the interview, he presented his supportive documentation for the board's review. This includes resumes, planned financial strategy for the University and his commitment to take Shaw University to a more prosperous future both academically and financially.
 - June 1, 2014: He was notified by someone on the executive committee (Name not Provided) that he would be the next President of Shaw University and to commence with making plans to move to the area.

The following is a list of events that occurred between Dr. Honeycutt and NAA Regional VP members:

- June 27, 2014: One of the NAA Regional VPs received another email from Dr. Honeycutt with an attached copy of his draft contract with dollar amounts redacted which state, "FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY".... "Shaw hereby employs Honeycutt for a period of three (3) years commencing [July 15, 2014] and ending [July 14, 2017]. Honeycutt shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Board and this three (3) year term of employment may be terminated at the will of the Board or Honeycutt." Apparently received on June 23, 2014.

- June 27, 2014: Members of the NAA Regional VPs received another email from Dr. Honeycutt whereby he respectfully indicated that he was no longer interested in pursuing the position and wished the Shaw University family the best.

Based on the information outlined above, it is very hard for this group of concerned Alumni members to understand how the BOT, Presidential Search Committee and the NAA Executive Leadership allowed this charade to take place. We feel there are no checks and balances. The selection of the Executive Search Committee, H.E.A.L Global Consulting, is extremely puzzling considering that this firm had no prior experience with the execution of such an important task. All members of the search committee should have been involved, aware and understood every aspect of this process. The fact that Dr. Honeycutt was even in the discussion and highlighted in the article on HBCU Digest is very puzzling to this group. The fact that a reporter seems to know more about the process than members of the search committee is truly unprofessional.

Until we start asking more definitive/ direct questions, holding this group accountable and stop with the collegiate relationships, we will never reach the financial security that's so important for privately owned HBCUs. Based on the current financial situation that's affecting all HBCUs, it's important that we operate as a business and hold one another fully accountable for their actions.

We, the concerned alumni members, have each signed this letter, to express our lack of confidence in the current BOT, Presidential Search Committee and Executive Committee of the NAA. We feel there are no checks and balance occurring within these groups and we have no confidence that decisions will be made that are in the best interest of the University. This group feels the BOT is being controlled and directed by the Chairman. This group also believes that the Presidential Search Committee was not allowed to operate in accordance with its charter and directions. As it relates to the NAA Executive Committee, we feel the President, who is an active member of the BOT and who is supposed to ensure that the interest of the membership is addressed is not capable of executing his charter as NAA President.

We don't want to become another sad HBCU statistic such as St. Paul College, South Carolina State, Wilberforce and so many other HBCUs that are no longer with us or struggling to stay afloat. Therefore, we urgently request a change in the membership of the BOT, Presidential Search Committee and the NAA Executive Committee to ensure that we have individuals that are truly committed to the prosperity, growth and longevity of Shaw University.

God Bless...

Janet Cornick
 Jay Simmons'98
 Jean Worsky '52
 Jim Lipscomb'71
 Joselia Davis'76
 Joyce M. Robinson'75
 Kevin McQuay'78
 Larry A. Williams '77
 Marilyn Stackhouse'77
 Mary Ann Shaw'78
 Priscilla Bell'77
 Rebonia Richman'06
 Rev. Carlton J. Whihby '98
 Rick Watson
 Robert Klass'82
 Robin Lowe-Terry'77
 Ronald Cash '80
 Rosia Blue'94
 Sandra Walker'77
 Shambulia Gadsden-Sams'08
 Sharon Coleman '98
 Shaun Smith'96
 Tom Caldwell '72
 Wilbur Banks'80
 William Waller '82

Andre Sheppard'85
Anthony Jackson'77
Barbara L. Fields'77
Bobby Davis'71
Bobby Height'66
Brenda Davenport'77
Brenda Height'67

Cindy Brooks-Parks'98
Denise Gamble
Diane Cordell-Wright '02
Donna Tate-Parker'73
Dr. Alton Byrd '78
Dr. Michael Ugwueke'83
Dr. Thomas J. Haynes'76
Elmer Thomas'57
Elorne Rainey'76
Emily Perry'71
Ernest Alexander'70
Gale D. Thomas'78
Geraline Washington '79
Gloria Hayes'06
Greg Jenkins'71
Harold Timberlake'96
Horace Davenport'71
James Wilson '66