



June 17, 2024

Dear FALCON NATION,

I hope that this letter finds you well. This dialogue aims to address the lawsuit and provide you with an update on our institution's financial status. As Vice Chair, I assumed the Chairmanship in January 2024, completing the term left vacant by the former Chair, Justice James Perry, who resigned for health reasons. This change occurred when our cherished SAU faced significant challenges, a duty I embraced to protect our institution.

One example of our difficulties occurred during a business meeting with influential Raleigh business leaders. I accompanied SAU's Interim President, Dr. Marcus Burgess, to an invited dinner. In attendance were a television station owner, a former editor of the local newspaper, a prominent local developer, and executives of another local higher educational institution. After exchanging pleasantries, the owner of the television station stated, "Let's get to the bottom of this: Raleigh doesn't need two black universities. We need the two to merge. I don't care what you call it. However, we need them both on SAU's property because we need downtown land to expand the development footprint." I turned to the other university's president in attendance and asked, "Do you agree with this?" She responded, "I'm going to reserve judgment." I later learned that her Board Chairman had floated the idea of a "merger" to the former SAU Chairman three or four weeks before the dinner, which he didn't take seriously.

Additionally, the local developer stated, "You have no leverage in this situation. You need to consider this as an option." The developer informed us that the Raleigh business community shared similar sentiments, thus limiting our access to financial resources. Following a tense dialogue, rejection of the proposal, and the conclusion of dinner, we left promptly. The next day, an article and a news report highlighted the financial challenges SAU and other regional HBCUs in NC faced. Shortly after that, a targeted campaign against SAU ensued.

Given the preceding, the Board of Trustees and the administration aggressively sought solutions to SAU's fiscal condition. Then, SAU family members filed a legal complaint, attacking the Board of Trustees and members individually. After carefully reviewing the complaint that The Save SAU Coalition members had filed, I assure you that this complaint is an inaccurate characterization of my service on the SAU Board of Trustees, specifically the statement that I was using SAU as a "Personal Piggy Bank," which is untrue. It is essential to understand that I am a 1995 SAU graduate, Student Body President, and a former Student Body Board of Trustees representative in the final year of leadership of the Honorable Dr. Prezell R. Robinson. More importantly, I am the only son of my mother, Shirley Bouhware, and the father of 2 outstanding young adults. It bothered me to have to sit with my immediate family and closest friends to explain the baseless implied allegations that their father's efforts to help something