FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO: Miami University Student Body
DATE: March 29, 2018

BLACK ACTION MOVEMENT 2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT

Oxford, Ohio -- On behalf of the Black Action Movement (BAM) 2.0, we hereby state the following:

The name Black Action Movement 2.0 (BAM 2.0) pays homage to the efforts of the original Black Action Movement of 1998. Comprised of concerned black student leaders, BAM 2.0 spearheads resolving the hostile racial climate at Miami University. The Black Action Movement is not an organization, but a mission.

“The Black Action Movement has regenerated in order to: address discriminatory incidents on campus; demand the restructuring of institutional policies and initiatives; and enlighten others of Black students’ ordeals to usher an inclusive Miami University community. While not a Miami University affiliated organization, BAM 2.0 is mindful of the Student Code of Conduct. As we progress with resolving the racial climate, we will create a pathway for all underrepresented groups on Miami University’s campus to engage in activist coalitions.”

-BAM 2.0, Mission Statement

Around November 1, 2017, a screenshot of a Miami University student using a racial slur in a Resident Hall GroupMe chat began circulating on social media. After this incident was brought to the attention of administration, students organized and led a forum to facilitate a discussion about what Miami University could do about this situation. The administrators present at this forum were:

Dr. Greg Crawford, University President
Dr. Jayne Brownell, Vice President of Student Affairs
Scott Walter, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Mike Curme, Dean of Students
Dr. Kelley Kimple, Director of the Office of Diversity Affairs
Dr. Rodney Coates, Coordinator of the Black World Studies Department

At this forum, administration announced the creation of a task force, under the direction of Dr. Rodney Coates, with its goal being to analyze the current state of Miami University when it comes to diversity, and suggest ways it can improve. A final report from this committee is expected by the end of April. Administration made it very clear that while what the student, referenced above, said was derogatory, under the Student Code of Conduct, nothing could be done. While the student was not being disciplined, he had talked with administrators and was “remorseful” for what he said. This, however, is contradictory to his most recent actions.

On Wednesday, March 21, 2018, a new screenshot involving this same student began circulating online. In this incident, he used the link to a Miami Student Newspaper article about his previous racist incident
to brag about his “edgier” character via Tinder. It is now clear that this student is in fact not “remorseful,” as he utilizes the Miami Student article to brand himself.

Unfortunately, his actions and opinions are not outliers amongst the general Miami University student population. Incidents like this happen too often here, and while many administrators have voiced their support for the Black Miami community individually, their personal opinions are 1) not reflected in current university discrimination policy and 2) not reflected within the attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Miami student body. For this reason, it is our goal to eradicate the racist culture students have successfully bred on campus for far too long - NOT to have disciplinary action brought against the student mentioned above. His situation is simply the catalyst that sparked the movement for change the Black Miami community is fighting for. Below is a summary of this week’s action events taken by students about this matter:

On Monday, March 26th, students held an impromptu rally in Armstrong Student Center. During this, a video referring to the Black protestors was posted to the public Oxford Snapchat story with the caption "who let the Zoo out", followed by 3 monkey emojis.

The following day, March 27th, a rally was held in the Farmer School of Business. It was met with hostility as students laughed at the protesters and another Snapchat video recorded with the disparaging comment, “WTF, get the hell out of the business school!” On Wednesday, March 28th and Thursday March 29th, the students occupied Roudebush Hall and the area on and around the Armstrong Seal, respectively, in silent protest while they studied.

We are currently getting in contact with alumni, faculty, and staff to create a strong network to effectively mobilize and execute a concise list of demands and consequences to present to the administration. If you know anyone who wants to get involved with our mobilizing efforts, please contact us.

We will continue to keep in contact regarding all updates. If you are interested in joining the movement or have any questions, comments, or concerns, contact bam1998collective@gmail.com.

Tweet using #BAM98 and #WhatisLoveandHonor. Follow us on Twitter @BAM_98_!

In solidarity,

Kyra Germany
Davaughn Golden
Clara Guerra
Aleah Holley
Jaylen Perkins
Imani Steele
Jermaine Thomas
Miranda Woods
BAM 2.0