

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (BSUNAA)
COMMUNICATION TIMELINE WITH BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY –
President, Bowie State University (BSU)**

| WHEN | METHOD | OUTCOME |
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| August 2024 | BSUNAA Past President Darren Swain initiated a meeting with President, BSU to address concerns and seek clarification regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). | Meeting held at the Lower Shore Chapter. the President, BSU stated that she would not allow BSUNAA additional time to provide the requested information. |
| November 2024 | BSUNAA President Dr. Stephanie Overton Stanard proactively sought a one-on-one meeting with the President, BSU to strategize the progression and future direction of a revised MOU. | No response. |
| Circa October - December 2024 | The University unilaterally restricted alumni engagement and fundraising capabilities by disabling the donation link connected to the Foundation (an independent 501c3), effectively severing a vital financial and membership pathway for BSUNAA without prior notification. | The inability of BSUNAA to pay dues or make donations. |
| December 2024 | BSUNAA's presence was notably absent from the Fall 2024 Graduation Program, a decision communicated to President Dr. Stanard with only one day's notice, despite her attempts to confer with the President, BSU on graduation matters. The charge to BSU graduates was given by the Director of Alumni Engagement, who does not hold a degree from BSU or an Historically Black College or University. | This unnecessary action was concerning and understandably caused outrage and dismay among alumni who continue to give money (endowments and scholarships) and time to the University and students! |
| January 2025 | BSUNAA's President Dr. Stephanie Overton Stanard, Ricardo Mitchel, BSUNAA Sports Hall of Fame Chapter President and Past National President, and Nicholas Myles, BSUNAA Historian, met with the President, BSU and her staff to discuss MOU Options. | Meeting held. The University President, VP Philanthropic Engagement, and Director, Alumni Engagement presented three potential options for an MOU. Each were at the detriment of BSUNAA. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain a 501c3 and give up our legal name since 1939 as the BSUNAA. 2. BSUNAA can fall under the University and report to the Office of Alumni Engagement. Giving the University absolute control of the BSUNAA chapter funds, minimizing alumni's voice regarding concerns, etc. 3. TBD. Requested a copy of the document and did not receive a response. |
| April 2025 | BSUNAA President Dr. Stanard submitted a formal draft of the proposed MOU to the President, BSU, concurrently requesting a follow-up meeting within two weeks to facilitate discussion and potential agreement. | No response. |
| April 2025 | The Foundation's refusal to transfer funds, as requested by the President of the Alumni 2000 Chapter, was allegedly based on the assertion by the VP for Philanthropic Engagement that BSUNAA lacks official | BSUNAA President Dr. Stanard sent a note to the Foundation Chair stating that refusing to transfer the funds violate the Donor's Bill of Rights. An immediate response was requested. |

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| | standing. This declaration effectively blocked the intended financial transaction. | |
| April 2025 | Faced with the University's lack of engagement and a prevailing negative sentiment surrounding BSUNAA, President Dr. Stephanie Overton Stanard found it necessary to travel to Baltimore to request a meeting with the Chancellor, USM. | Meeting held with the Chief of Staff, USM. USM will conduct a review. The Chancellor's Chief of Staff, on behalf of the Chancellor Dr. Jay Perman, stated that this is a campus issue and he would not get involved. |
| April 2025 | President, BSU sent BSUNAA, President Dr. Stephanie Overton Stanard a letter based on Dr. Stanard's conversation with the Office of the Chancellor. The letter stated that USM is going in a different direction with Alumni Associations (which is not true) and indicated that BSUNAA is not a financially responsible organization. | <p>Dr. Stanard sent Dr. Breaux a response stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o BSUNAA' sole objective is to establish a mutually agreed-upon Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") that clearly defines the parameters of engagement between the University and BSUNAA. o We seek formal recognition as the National Alumni Association of Bowie State University, a role we have fulfilled since 1939. o Concern over the disparate treatment BSUNAA appears to be receiving. Specifically, allegations have been made regarding instructions to university staff to disregard the existence of BSUNAA, to refrain from collaborative initiatives, and not to permit BSUNAA to operate or utilize any of the University's services or facilities. o The suggestion by the President, BSU and her staff during our January 2025 meeting that BSUNAA should dissolve, change its name, or integrate into the University's Office of Alumni Engagement. The letter stated that these actions could be interpreted as an attempt to exert undue influence, coercion, or pressure upon a National Alumni Association of a historically significant HBCU within the State of Maryland to abandon its independent status and become a subordinate affiliate of the University administration. o Finally, the universities communication included an unsubstantiated assertion of an alleged fiscal irresponsibility of BSUNAA. This claim is unequivocally false. Dr. Stanard requested immediate production of such documentation and provided a copy of BSUNAA letter of good standing with the State of Maryland, Department of Assessment and Taxation. |
| May 2025 | Again, BSUNAA has not been invited to speak during the May 23, 2025, Graduation Ceremony as it has done for over 70 years. | |
| May 2025 | President, BSU requested a meeting with BSUNAA President, Dr. Stanard to discuss the MOU. | The two groups have a tentative meeting scheduled for May 2025 |

- BSUNAA has consistently and in good faith endeavored to address and resolve all outstanding issues related to the Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement.
- Conversely, Bowie State University has failed to reciprocate these good-faith efforts.
- BSU has weaponized the unsigned MOU, intentionally denying the alumni association customary and legitimate access to campus and vital legacy events (Commencement, Founder's Day, etc.).
- The absence of a signed MOU should not serve as a barrier to BSUNAA's engagement with the University in fulfilling our shared commitment to supporting the institution and its students.
- The University exhibits a pattern of arbitrary engagement with BSUNAA, welcoming involvement solely when it serves the institution's specific narrative.
 - Despite the absence of a signed MOU, BSUNAA actively participated in the Middle States Review.
 - Following the Homecoming shooting, BSUNAA provided support and was invited to address the press conference.
 - BSUNAA was requested to advocate for the CIAA's continued presence in Baltimore.
 - The University denied BSUNAA's request for a suite at the CIAA tournament to host an alumni meet and greet.
- The level of disregard exhibited towards BSUNAA stands in stark contrast to the experiences of other institutions, including UMES, Coppin, and Morgan State, which have encountered MOU delays without similar disdain.
- Despite BSUNAA's \$90,000 contribution to the University for the Goodloe House, the agreed-upon terms for its use are not being honored. This is a distinct matter, separate from the overarching MOU with the University.

The Bowie State University National Alumni Association (BSUNAA) has been a 501(c)(3) since 1939! We will remain BSUNAA and not abandon our name or identification as a 501(c)(3)! Our National Alumni Association has been part of the fabric of one of Maryland's oldest historically black colleges and universities for over 30 years. Any attempts to dismantle BSUNAA undermine the very foundation of our alumni network and its support for the university and students. It also calls for careful scrutiny and understanding of its motivations and long-term effects.