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Topic: Dr. James Newton

[Dr. James Newton discussing the Scarpitti Report and how he became involved as a voice for African Americans on campus.]

James Newton: Dr. Scarpitti had been given the task of writing about Black issues on the University of Delaware campus. This report became a scathing report in terms of what is it that the University of Delaware should be doing for Black students. In turn, they started looking at Black Studies, that was the big thing then. What they call Critical Race Theory, look back, analyze Black Studies Movement and you'll see something similar. It was a, it wasn't anti-white, it was pro-Black. This is the problem that we have today. So I'm caught in the middle of it, and I'm so naive about political, uh academic politics, that I just jump in and say what I'm gonna say, candid, frank, and direct. And so, I, the President's talking and, don't ask somebody, don't ask somebody to say something—I was number 21 or 22 on a committee of 21, I was the only Black person in the room, some things were said I think that they forgot that I was there. The result was that I had to speak. And I became—you know young, ambitious—I became interested in becoming the head of the Black Caucus. The head of the Black Caucus has to really be the voice for Black students, and the Black faculty.