



5-2011

Meeting Minutes - May 2011

Commission for Blacks

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting May 4, 2011

Call to Order: Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:03pm.

In Attendance: Camille Hall, Maxine Davis, Ron Tredway, Amit Patel, Wanda Costen, Valuri Reid, Sekeenia Haynes, Rosa Thomas, Joann Jeter, Dawn Duke, Kynita Stringer-Stanback, Annazette Houston, Lynn Sacco, Sheadrick Tillman

1. Review of April minutes: Recommended edits were made (i.e., the date needed to be changed to 2011); minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Chair: The chairpersons for the Commission for Blacks and Commission for Women met with the Provost. During this meeting, issues related to Banner were discussed, Provost Martin indicated a technical team has been formed to address problems specific to Banner and she said that the majority of the problems would be handled without impacting graduation. Because of scheduling issues, meetings with Chancellor Cheek were rescheduled and/or cancelled. Therefore, chairpersons have not met with Chancellor Cheek this semester.

Several commissioners expressed concern as to whether or not the CFB was a priority and/or if the Chancellor was committed to this advisory group. The commissioners also indicated that in order to share the views of Black faculty, staff and students, the chairperson must meet with the Chancellor on a regular basis.

Dr. Hall stated that the CFB website has been updated to reflect the growth of the organization. The website has announcements and events on the front page. There is also a “Get Involved” button that leads to the Commission for Blacks membership application form. On the right side of the screen there is a “Donate Now” button, which will allow site visitors to donate to the University.

Commissioners were encouraged to visit the Diverse Faculty Mentoring Program website, <http://web.utk.edu/~dfmp/>. Faculty members can access registration forms for the DFMP Workshop. On May 6th the Office of the Chancellor will send “Save the Date” announcements to faculty members. He will also send information to deans, directors and academic department heads inviting them to a luncheon focused on “Empowering Diverse Faculty to Achieve Successful Tenure and Promotion.”

The bylaws must be revised; input is welcomed, Dr. Hall stated revisions would most likely occur during the fall semester.

3. Establishing a Database to Monitor Faculty/Staff Publications: Sheadrick Tillman emailed both Black Faculty and Staff Association and the Commission for Blacks about establishing a database for minority tenured and tenure track faculty member’s publications. Dr. Tillman also recommended BFSA and the CFB develop a retention plan for minority faculty.

Commissioners support the upcoming Diverse Faculty Mentoring; the majority committed to encouraging faculty of color and deans/department heads to participate to increase awareness regarding retention/recruitment of faculty of color.

4. Compensation Advisory Board and Supervisor Training:

Commissioner Ron Tredway talked about the Compensation Advisory Board (CAB) and recent developments. The CAB recently recommended and gained approval for increasing the minimum starting salary for full time and part-time regular employees to \$8.50 per hour. Also shared, the Compensation Advisory Board will be commissioning a study to assess and compare University of Tennessee's pay and benefits to peer institutions and similar sized employers. Attendees raised concerns about how minimal the raise was and about why another study needed to be completed.

5. Commission for LGBT People: Dr. Sacco reported that co-chairs would be elected to lead the Commission for LGBT People in 2011-12. The resource center has served 150-200 students per week in 2010-11. The commission has also increased relationships between members of the Commission for Blacks and minority students who use the resource center.

6. Announcements:

The CFB will consider hosting an event for Black faculty and staff at the beginning of the fall 2011 semester (mid-late, August). Dawn Duke and Kynita Stranger-Stanback agreed to co chair this event and Wanda Costen agreed to provide sodas. Annazette Houston suggested the Tyson House or the Black Cultural Center as possible venues. Ron Tredway recommended the commission solicit corporate sponsorship. The commission will consider inviting all faculty of color. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the mixer hosted by the graduate student association at beginning of the fall semester.

Black Alumni Weekend is May 14, 2011. Mayor Daniel Brown will be the speaker at the reception to held at UT the Visitors Center from 6-8:00pm. May 15, 2011 will be the Celebrity Reception and Auction at Crown Plaza. The funds are for scholarships earmarked for Black students. May 16, 2011 will be the Golf Tournament please view the 50th anniversary calendar events to learn more, <http://achieve.utk.edu/events.shtml>.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04pm.