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Meeting Minutes - March 2012

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting March 7, 2012

Call to Order: Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

In Attendance: Camille Hall, Ron Tredway, Marva Rudolph, Charles Houston, , Richard Stokes, Lilia Uiu Neville, Nanette Rodgers, Meshia Thomas, and Jenny Moshak.

*William Parrott has a revised class schedule that conflicts with monthly CFB meetings.

1. Review of February Minutes: After review, an e-mailed change was previously updated and the minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Chair: The Chairs of the Commission for Blacks, Commission for Women (Mary Papke), and Commission for LGBT People (Jenny Moshak/Tom Cervone) had breakfast with Provost Martin on February 23rd. Dr. Martin stated that Chancellor Cheek will submit a proposal for a Diversity Officer position to the Board of Trustees. The plan is to advertise and fill the position before the summer. The Chair encouraged members to participate in the candidate forum. Several commissioners discussed concerns regarding the nomination and interview process for prospective candidates. Ron Tredway stated the job announcement could be accessed through HR "one stop".

The Chair reported she participated in the Black Issues Conference, she did know the exact number of attendants, but , it was a good turnout. Students commented the conference was informative and beneficial to their growth and development at UTK. Students also stated that more people i.e., non-Black, should attended the conference. The Chair stated the title of conference might limit participation by sending the message that the conference is only for Black people. Several commissioners agreed and suggested that the advertisement and marketing for future the conference might help.

The Chair attended the Diversity Job Fair Luncheon. The job fair seemed to be well organized. She stated she learned a lot from students with interesting stories and educational paths. Jenny Moshak stated the keynote speaker was a great speaker. She also stated jobs for people with disabilities were discussed.

The Chair requested ideas for a theme for BLACK@UT newsletter. This year's issue will feature articles based on interviews of Rita Geier and Charles & Annazette Houston. The Chair requested additional submissions.

The CFB awards will be presented at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet on April 9, 2012. The nominations are complete and award plaques have been ordered. The Chair asked Marva Rudolph for historical information regarding the African American Hall of Fame Award plaque. Marva stated the CFB formed a special committee for the African American Hall of Fame award in 1994. This committee's efforts led to the recognition as sponsors of the first award. The Chair asked members to vote on whether the CFB should still be recognized as sponsors on awards plaques. It was agreed the award will now read "presented by the Commission for Blacks". The Chair asked the bylaws committee to initiate discussion on how often nomination for the award should be solicited.

The Chair discussed nomination and election for the CFB Chair. She encouraged commissioners to consider themselves or others for this position. Chair responsibilities described in the bylaws. Elections will take place in April 4, 2012.

3. Council on Diversity & Interculturalism: Marva Rudolph attended the February CDI meeting. CDI are still working on the demographic information in the Campus Climate Survey Jenny Moshak stated a follow-up letter will be sent to Linda Hendricks and the Benefits Advisory Group (with a courtesy copy to the Chancellor) to address concerns. The Chair pointed out that CDI sent a previous letter that included support by the CFB, but she was not given an opportunity to review the final draft of the letter. Jenny Moshak stated she did not recall having an opportunity to review the final draft The Chair stressed the importance of giving the CFB an opportunity to approve any correspondence that includes CFB support. Jenny Moshak and Marva Rudolph stated they would address this issue at the CDI meeting on March 8, 2012.

4. Faculty and Staff Committees: Dr. Davis was unable to attend the meeting, the following report is extracted from her report to the Executive Committee meeting on February 29th. Dr. Davis stated spoke to Dale Irvin, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Facility Services, regarding computer access for non-exempt employees. Mr. Irvin is working to secure a space for computers. There is little movement on the part of dining services, but they are open to locating a spot. She hopes to hear something by the end of this semester for both (i.e., dining services and facilities).

5. Bylaws Committee: Marva Rudolph and Ron Tredway explained the recommended changes to the bylaws. Upon review and clarification commissioners voted in favor of the bylaws (Philippa Satterwhite and Avery Howard were not able to attend today's meeting but voted to approve recommended edits). The Chair thanked both Marva and Ron for their hard work.

6. Announcements: Meshia Thomas announced UTK has began an active search to fill the position for police chief search. She encouraged commissioners to participate in the interview process for candidates. Lieutenant Thomas agreed to send the commission an announcement when a forum date is set. The Commission for LGBT is sponsoring Self Evident Truths event on March 11-13, 2012. More information can be found at http://lgbt.utk.edu/.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm. The next meeting is @ noon on April 4, 2012, in the Multipurpose Room at the Black Cultural Center.