



1973

1973 Graduate School Report

Commission for Blacks

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF LAW
1505 WEST CUMBERLAND AVENUE
KNOXVILLE
37916

June 15, 1973

Memo re: Conference with Hilton Smith

Present: Dr. Smith, Roy Knight, Mary Rose Gram, and
Jerry Phillips

Dr. Smith had Mrs. Underwood and Mr. Boston of his office prepare answers to the specific questions that we submitted to the Grad. Dept. Copies are attached.

There are approx. 125 graduate depts. in the Univ., with students ranging in age generally from 25-40. It is difficult to determine attrition rates, because students may attend school sporadically and may take many years to get a degree. Dr. Smith estimates that there are between 250 and 300 blacks out of a total graduate student body of approx. 5000. Thus the percentage is greater than in the undergrad. school. The greatest concentration of blacks is in the dept. of educat. Some of the depts., such as biomedicine (OR) and psychology for example, have special places reserved solely for blacks. (OR Carnegie recruit. grant for summer preparat.; 10 of 25 clinical psych. posits. reserved for blacks.)

The grad. school formerly had fellowships reserved solely for blacks, with only minimal academic requirements. This system proved unsatisfactory, since some of the students on these fellowships were not devoted to their work. Financial aid, however, is a significant problem, particularly with present gov't. support cutback.

In one case a black faculty member from dept. of social work, married to a white woman, was unable to find living quarters in Knoxville. Dr. Aldmon finally intervened and was able to get them housing in Univ. apts. Dr. Smith believes that the Univ. should maintain housing facilities to meet just such problems as this.

On a philosophic level, Dr. Smith expressed concern about the separatist tendencies in today's race relations. He envisages black studies and black cultural centers as a product of these tendencies. He thinks he sees more social separation between blacks and whites on the UT campus now that he did a few years ago. He believes that there are still a number of faculty on the UT campus who are not committed to integration, or even to desegregation. He thinks the ultimate solution to racial disharmony is intermarriage.

Jerry Phillips

1. What efforts are made to recruit Blacks for undergraduate study, graduate study, athletics, part-time (Evening School) study and continuing education?
- ② What are the criteria for awarding scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, loans and work opportunities?
- ③ What external financial aid is available to graduate students?
- ④ How is financial aid information transmitted to students or potential students and faculty?
5. What are the criteria for admission to colleges and/or degree programs? What problems do Black students encounter in meeting these criteria?
6. Does the application fee (graduate and undergraduate) influence admission of Black students? Is a waiver of this fee possible?
- ⑦ Criteria employed in GA/GTA selection and appointments - grants
- non-service
- fellowships

2. The criteria for awarding assistantships are set by the individual departments and the criteria for loans and work opportunities would be available from the Financial Aids Office. Non-Service Fellowships have been awarded on the basis of high scholastic achievement using grade point averages, Graduate Record Examination results, and recommendations as criteria. The financial situation of the student is becoming more pertinent and this will probably be taken into consideration in the future.
3. Mrs. Barbara Boston, Fellowship Assistant in the Graduate School Office, is more and more emphasizing non-university sources of financial assistance, primarily in the area of fellowships/scholarships. This involves a constant exploration of funding available on a national competitive basis and compilation of all resources. In an effort to utilize all sources, letters will be sent out this spring for the first time to all agencies, foundations, business and professional organizations, etc., so that the Graduate School Office will be included on all mailing lists. More information will be requested from sources such as those listed in The Foundation Directory. This is a new effort which has been more or less secondary in past years. Application blanks will be requested and kept on file as indicated.
4. Funding information is transmitted to potential students by letter when students so request. Mrs. Boston forwards letters to the Financial Aids Office or to departments as indicated. The Graduate School Catalog also lists information about funding and addresses for letters of inquiry.

Students currently enrolled are welcome to talk with Mrs. Boston at any time. Although in the past the position of Fellowship Assistant was more in the nature of handling federally supported fellowships, it may evolve more and more into a financial counseling position with referral of students to community agencies, instructional departments, Financial Aids Office, etc. This service is brought to the attention of students in the Graduate School Catalog and in the quarterly Graduate School News. Use of posters, the Beacon, and a more comprehensive flyer are under consideration.

When information concerning specialized fellowships becomes available, it is mailed to appropriate department heads. Such information does not always get distributed to faculty heads and often ends paper-deep on bulletin boards. Certainly not all faculty members are informed that the Fellowship Assistant is in existence. It would certainly be helpful to have a better system of transmitting financial information to faculty and having faculty send students to the Fellowship Assistant.

7. See answer 2. concerning Non-Service Fellowships and contact departments for others.

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1.

1. At the present time we are without a Dean of Graduate Students on a full time basis. The Dean normally does the recruiting for graduate students. This past Fall Dr. Bob Leggett with our Department of English and Mr. Marvin Peek, Coordinator of Black Students, did the recruiting for the Graduate School. They did actively recruit black students. I do not know if anyone with the University Evening School is actively recruiting black students. However, our University Evening School does put forth an effort to publicize their program and it reaches a large majority of the people, including blacks.
5. The criteria for admission to the Graduate School is the same for every student. Our minimum admission requirement is 2.50 out of a possible 4.0, or a 3.0 the senior year for non-degree students. Degree requirements are normally higher. I do know that the Oak Ridge Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, the History Department, and our Psychology Department were actively recruiting black students for this past Fall quarter. Some black students did gain admission in these departments although each department has a quota requirement. I do not know if our black students encountered problems in meeting the criteria for admission since no studies have been made.
6. I do not believe the application fee presents a problem for black students. At the present time there is a fund which is available for waiver of fees. We have waived one graduate application fee for a young black girl for admission to our Psychology Department. This was for the Fall quarter of 1973.