



4-2012

## Meeting Minutes - April 2012

Commission for Blacks

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## **Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting April 4, 2012**

**Call to Order:** Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

**In Attendance:** Camille Hall, Maxine Davis, Charles Houston, Richard Stokes, Nanette Rodgers, Denelle Brown, Philippa Satterwhite, and Jenny Moshak.

\*Ron Tredway, Marva Rudolph, Meshia Thomas, Lilia Neville, and Joann Jeter notified Chair of their potential absence prior to meeting.

**1. Review of March Minutes:** After review the minutes were approved.

**2. Report from the Chair:** There were 253 participants at the Black Issues Conference this year. The Black Issues Conference Committee reviewed 21 submitted program proposals for the 13 slots allocated for workshop sessions. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive from conference attendees concerning the overall conference. Conference attendees liked the addition of the having Charlie Lemmons speak at the luncheon instead of closing the conference with the keynote speaker, as done in the past. The partnership with the Knoxville Area Urban League National Achiever's Program was a new part of this year's conference. The high school students joined the Black Issues Conference for the opening session, luncheon and closing session and participated in their own "Teen Summit" throughout the remainder of the day that focused on college preparation. Tanisha Jenkins provided Black Issues Conference t-shirts to the Commission for Blacks.

The 2012 Diversity Job Fair Luncheon/Fair at the University of Tennessee had more students attend than ever before for a total of 215! Although the committee could not report on all diverse attributes of the student attendees, they were able to gather information as to racial/ethnic diversity: 62 attendees were African American, 28 attendees were Asian American, and 9 attendees were Hispanic. Based on this information (although there were alumni that were not accounted for), 54% of the students who attended the Diversity Job Fair were racially/ethnically diverse. In addition 47 employers participated this year which is 9 more than the previous two years! Next year's Diversity Job Luncheon/Fair, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2013. Please mark your calendars.

The Chair encouraged members to attend the public forum for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The forum will take place at 2:00pm on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in the Shiloh Room of the Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center. Representatives from the CALEA were on campus for the department's first review since being accredited in 2009. The CALEA team looked at UTPD's policies, procedures, management, operations, and support services. UTPD is one of only two CALEA-accredited university departments in Tennessee and one of only fifty-three CALEA-accredited university departments in the country.

The Chair also encouraged members to attend the "Justice for Trayvon, United Against Racism" rally. The rally will take place on April 4, 2012, 5-7pm at Krutch Park in Knoxville, TN. Community members were invited to come out and unite against violence and killings of young Black men around the country and in Knoxville, TN. Students at the University of Tennessee were credited with putting this event together.

The Chair discussed elections for the next CFB Chair. Chair stated she will e-mail each nominee the position description and responsibilities and inquire about their interest in potentially accepting the position. After receiving responses from each nominee a ballot will be sent to commissioners to vote for the Chair and Chair-elect.

Commissioners were encouraged to submit a new membership request form to remain in the CFB. Michell Greenidge will send an e-mail to commissioners with a link to the CFB membership request form.

The Chair announced Jenny Moshak's Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Institute acceptance. Women faculty members or administrators who have a proven record of professional growth and responsibility, and who have a keen interest in campus administration and the challenges of growing a university rich in international and intercultural diversity, are encouraged to review the institutes and apply for the one that best suits individual circumstances.

**3. Commission for LGBT:** Jenny Moshak reported over 260 people were photographed during the Self-Evident Truths event featuring photographer iO Tillet Wright. The Commission for LGBT is working on a project to expand this event next year by possibly collaborating with the Knoxville Museum of Art.

The Lavender Graduation will take place on April 26, 2012, 7pm at Hodges Library, Mary Greer Room. Lavender Graduation is a special ceremony that honors the achievements of graduating seniors from the LGBT & Ally community. Graduates interested in participating can RSVP to Jesse Ford at [jford17@utk.edu](mailto:jford17@utk.edu). You can also pick up your rainbow tassel at the OUTReach Center during regular business hours. The CFB Chair requested accountability of African American student participation in this event. Michell Greenidge will e-mail CFB this information.

UTK Faculty Senate Resolution was approved for Domestic Partnership Benefits.

Maxine Davis reported the SGA passed a bill to add a category to identify LGBT students to the admissions application. She is working with Vern Granger to finalize specific wording.

**4. Faculty and Staff Committees:** Maxine Davis reported she is still working with Assistant Vice Chancellor Dave Irvin regarding computer access to non-exempt employees and is trying to get an area together for this for facilities services.

**5. Access and Diversity Staff Retention Fund:** Philippa Satterwhite reported this committee is continuing to work on bylaws. They are focusing on identifying programs for applicants as far as professional development. She requested feedback from the commission regarding how find out who staff members are and how to contact them. The Chair suggested contacting Marva Rudolph for assistance with pertaining to this information. Jenny Moshak offered putting together a brown bag luncheon inviting staff to attend and learn about professional development programs and access funds. Jenny also suggested inviting supervisors to provide awareness and clarification if needed. The Chair suggested this committee start working on a brown bag luncheon in the fall and to reserve space now if possible.

**6. Awards Committee:** Denelle Brown stated this committee is preparing to present awards to recipients at the Chancellor's Honor's Banquet on April 9, 2012. Denelle also stated the committee is in the process of selecting four recipients for the Carl Cowan scholarship. This scholarship will provide four \$1000 scholarships for students. They received 60 nominations this year. Recipients will be announced at the Multicultural Graduation Celebration on April 22, 2012, 4pm-7pm, at the University Center Auditorium.

**7. Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA):** Charles Houston reported BFSA is putting together an Alumni Mailer in May to solicit funding for scholarships. On April 18, 2012 BFSA will present Alex Haley Scholarships of about \$50,000 total, to 30 African American undergraduate students.

**8. Announcements:** Chamique Holdsclaw will share her story of survival and ultimate victory over depression during a UT alumni event Tuesday, April 10, 2012, at the Foundry at the World's Fair Park. The event begins at 5:30pm and the cost is \$20 per person. For more information contact the UT Office of Alumni Affairs at 865-974-3011. The stop bullying flash mob will take place on April 27, 2012 at 5pm, at Market Square, Knoxville, TN. For more information see <http://www.facebook.com/events/315895511797153/>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.**