



2-8-1952

Recommendation of Dean N. F. Thomason, to President C. E. Brehm, February 8, 1952

R. F. Thomason

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_brehm

Recommended Citation

Recommendation of Dean N. F. Thomason, to President C. E. Brehm, February 8, 1952, President's Papers, AR.0006. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Special Collections

This Desegregation and Integration, 1949-1959 is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in C.E. Brehm, 1946-1959 by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

February 8, 1952

President C. E. Brehm
Administration Building 212

Dear President Brehm:

I am enclosing several copies of a letter to you with regard to the admission of Negro students. The extra copies are for your own distribution as you see fit.

Very sincerely yours,



R. F. Thomason, Dean of
Admissions and Records

RFT:vld

TO: PRESIDENT C. E. BREHM

FROM: R. F. THOMASON

SUBJECT: ADMISSION OF NEGRO STUDENTS

Some days ago in the course of a conversation with you about the admission of Negro students to the University of Tennessee I indicated that I would give you in writing some of the difficulties which may now confront us as we attempt to handle such applications in a way satisfactory to all concerned.

- I. I think we must have a clear ruling from our lawyer, or whatever legal authorities are concerned, as to the exact intent of the recent ruling of the Supreme Court. Does the ruling apply only to the four individuals named in the Court procedures?
- II. Presumably a student asking for admission to our Law College in the future would be accepted, provided, of course, his record is in good order. The reason I say this is that Tennessee A. & I. does not offer any work in law.
- III. Will we open the doors to Negro graduate students in all fields of graduate work or only in those fields which are not offered at Tennessee A. & I.? It is my understanding that Tennessee A. & I. offers graduate work in most of the fields which we have here at Knoxville. I believe they offer graduate work in chemistry--their catalogue states biochemistry, also--and also in French, leading to the Master's degree. Even though the A. & I. catalogue states that graduate work is offered and that a Master's degree is obtainable in several fields, it may actually turn out that there is not sufficient demand in these fields for them actually to give the work. It appears that the Supreme Court has ruled favorably in the case of Gray, who wanted a Master's degree in chemistry, and also in the case of Alexander, who wanted a Master's degree in French. Suppose a student wants a Master's degree in education, which I believe is offered at Tennessee A. & I. Will we be obligated to take such a student? I received a telephone call day before yesterday relating to a case of this kind. I told this man that we would give him definite information sometime during the winter quarter.
- IV. Pursuing number three above a little bit further, does the Supreme Court ruling in effect mean that we will admit all graduate students who meet our general admission requirements, even though a Master's degree might be obtained at Tennessee A. & I. in the field the student wishes to specialize in here? Apparently the answer is yes, since we did admit Gray and were ordered by the Supreme Court to admit Alexander to courses here which seem to be offered at Tennessee A. & I.
- V. Are we going to have to decide whether or not a student can get graduate work at Tennessee A. & I. in his field of interest, and if it is decided that he can get it there, then will we refuse him admission to a similar program here? If such is the case, then I

think you should set up a committee to make such decisions. Sometimes the catalogue states that certain courses are offered leading to a particular degree, when as a matter of fact, such work does not materialize because of a lack of interested students. I suppose our committee here would have to consider this particular factor in arriving at its decisions.

- VI. What is going to be our attitude with regard to admission of Negroes from outside the state? Presumably we can control this without any difficulty, but possibly it would be well at least to get the feeling of the Board on the question, even though they do not necessarily order us to refuse such admissions.
- VII. What are we going to do with regard to Negroes attending extension courses and enrolling in correspondence work? We do not give any graduate work by correspondence, and maybe that settles the question. On the other hand, as I understand it Tennessee A. & I. does not offer any work--either graduate or undergraduate--by correspondence. I doubt that Tennessee A. & I. can offer much work by extension, largely because there would hardly be enough demand within their own race to make it pay its way. If our people could teach extension courses and let both ~~the~~ races attend classes and then allow the Negroes to register with A. & I. and get credit with A. & I. this might solve the question of extension. I think some institutions have solved that phase of the problem in this way.
- VIII. It is assumed, I suppose, that the Negro students who are admitted will have in general the privileges of other students on the campus. How will we decide whether or not they may participate in athletics and possibly other phases of University life? I suppose this is entirely an internal problem, but sooner or later it may present itself for solution.

Respectfully submitted,

R. F. Thomason
R. F. Thomason, Dean of
Admissions and Records

RFT:vld