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1983

1983 Correspondence between Commission for Blacks and Commission for Women re "Status of Blacks at UT Report"

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The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Commission for Blacks
416 Alumni Hall

August 1, 1983

Gail Clay
Commission for Women
329 University Center
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Dear Ms. Clay:

During our meeting on July 20, 1983 we discussed many important matters which will prove beneficial to the minority community at the University of Tennessee in the near future. It was indeed a pleasure to converse with someone as caring, motivating, and inspiring as yourself.

The Commission for Blacks is sincerely grateful for your support in our efforts to cultivate and enrich Blacks and women. Please allow us to commend your office on a job well done in supplying the UTK community with relevant issues concerning women. We consider the Commission for Women a vital part of UTK's campus; therefore, we would like to call on your office to assist us with our endeavor.

Over the next several months, we will be working diligently to complete a comprehensive report on the "Status of Blacks at UTK". Our goal is to acquire the necessary information, utilize the data comparatively, and produce a thorough document to the best of our abilities. Following please find information which was previously discussed in our meeting.

We would appreciate it if your office would send us information and/or respond to the following:

a) List all activities during your appointment.

b) Briefly state how you perceive your job. (How would you improve your position?)

c) Give a brief statement on your offices' long term and short term goals.

d) Indicate the numbers of minority women on the Board (include the classification or job title).

e) Give suggestions to improve the quality and relationship among minorities on campus (i.e. graduate women, Black freshmen, etc.)

Please forward any additional data not requested above that would further advance this study. If there are any questions concerning the information requested, the following support staff will be more than happy to assist:

Mr. Marvin Peek
Chairperson, Commission for Blacks (#5053)

Mr. David Fuller
Staff Assistant (#2146)

Ms. Debra Redd
Secretary, Commission for Blacks (#2140)

Cheryl Mays (#2140)

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Janice Wright
Staff Assistant
Commission for Blacks

JW/cym

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Commission for Women

August 22, 1983

Janice Wright
Staff Assistant
Commission for Blacks
416 Alumni Hall
CAMPUS

Dear Janice:

A copy of the Annual Review for the Commission for Women is enclosed. I believe this report will provide an appropriate response to the first area addressed in your questions/statements.

The following statements are responses to the remaining concerns as requested:

How I Perceive the Position

I believe the Chair of CFW should provide leadership, ideas, programs and services for the women of this university. In order for the Commission to be effective the membership must be cognizant to the needs of the female populus and respond in a timely manner. When it is necessary for CFW to become an advocate for a just cause, the Chair and members must be activists.

The Commission could be more effective if more members were active rather than passive participants.

Goals

The goals of the Commission for 1982-83 are included in the review. Goals for 1983-84 will be determined at the first meeting in September.

Minority Members

Dorothy Hendricks, Associate Professor, Education
Jane Redmond, Director, Black Cultural Center
Kay Williams, Advisor, Sports Clubs
John Williams, Graduate Student, Planning
Cheryl Ponder, Chairperson, WCC

Improving Relationships

I believe better communications is the key to improved relationships throughout the university. Any mechanisms for communications that can generate the exchange of ideas, stimulate publications, bring about

face-to-face meetings, and generally recognize a group for its contributions to the university can, and will, enhance relationships throughout the campus.

The CFW Networker is an excellent example of improving communications with all women on the campus.

I wish you well with this difficult assignment.

Sincerely,

Gail Clay
Chair

GC/brh