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Letter in Reply to Invitation to Attend February 21, 1973 Meeting of AASLF

Commission for Blacks

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE 37916
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

February 19, 1973

Mr. Wilbur Hawkins
Executive Chairman
Afro-American Student Liberation Force
239 University Center
CAMPUS

Dear Wilbur:

This is in response to your memorandum inviting the Task Force on Blacks to attend the February 21 meeting of the AASLF. The invitation was discussed by the Task Force at its meeting on Friday, February 16. The members agreed that we, as a Task Force, are not yet clear with regard to the dimensions of the task nor have we yet had an opportunity to familiarize ourselves sufficiently with basic university programs and policies to enter into a meaningful and fruitful discussion with interested groups.

In the next few weeks, however, we intend to ask for an audience with various groups whose input we believe will be helpful in pursuit of our task. To this end, we have tentatively set March 28 as the date on which we would like to meet with AASLF. I hope that this date will be suitable to you and interested students. In the meantime, the Task Force is in the process of preparing an outline of areas of concern that will be investigated. When this outline is more firm, I would like to share it with you so that you may in turn ask reactions from the AASLF to be communicated to the Task Force. We believe that this preliminary step will make it possible for us to benefit greatly from the March 28 discussion. We would like very much for this meeting to be one in which the Task Force might receive information from the general body of students that will be useful in the progress of our work. We cannot accomplish very much if it is simply an airing of issues and complaints.

I think that it must be reemphasized that the Task Force has been charged with the responsibility of investigating university programs, procedures, policies and activities as they relate to Blacks and recommending to the Chancellor steps that may be taken toward improvement of the quality of life for Blacks on this campus. It is not an action-oriented group and should not be looked upon as such. We sincerely hope that the report of the Task Force that will be transmitted to the Chancellor no later than August 31, 1973, will offer



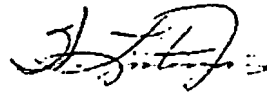
Mr. Wilbur Hawkins

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direction to an improved quality of life for all individuals on this campus. Its implementation cannot begin until the study and recommendations have been completed. Certainly, steps toward improvement of some conditions of interest to AASLF may be implemented while the Task Force is at work, and we will urge that such steps be taken at every opportunity.

Sincerely,



Hardy Liston, Jr.
Associate Vice Chancellor

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cc: Members of the Task Force