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## October 23, 1974 Letter to Task Force Regarding Athletes

Commission for Blacks

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October 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM

TO: Task Force  
FROM: Jerry Phillips

On Wednesday, October 16, 1974 a sub-committee of the Task Force consisting of Liston, Peek, Ford, Lomax and Phillips met with the coaches of the various sports in Mr. Woodruff's office. Present were: Huntsman (track), Buzzard (swimming), Robinson (football), Wright (baseball), Royall (tennis), Moon (wrestling), Davis and Comunale (basketball recruiting), and Styles (football recruiting). Mr. Oliver of Gibbs Hall later joined us. Coaches Battle and Mears were absent without explanation. Woodruff ALSO PRESENT.

The various sports are limited by NCAA regulations as to the number of athletic scholarships they can give per year. Here at UTK 30 scholarships per year for football may be awarded, 3 for tennis, 6 for basketball, 7 for track, 6 for swimming, 6 for baseball; in addition, there are limitations as to the overall number of scholarships that may be held at any given time in any particular sport.

All scholarship athletes are housed in Gibbs Hall, with the exception of track athletes who are housed in North Carrick Hall. In addition, other serious non-scholarship athletes are encouraged to reside with their teammates in these respective halls.

The present total value of an athletic scholarship is approximately \$2500 per year. This includes room, board, tuition, books, medical expenses and \$15 per week laundry or other expense allowance. If an athlete receives academic scholarship aid, this amount must be subtracted from the athletic scholarship amount, since the combined total may not exceed the \$2500 limit.

If a scholarship athlete marries, he may receive an allowance of approximately \$140 per month in lieu of room, board and laundry expenses, if such payment is recommended by the athlete's coach. Marriage during school is discouraged, however, since it detracts from the athlete's ability to devote himself to his sport.

Scholarships are awarded on a one-year basis, by Conference regulation. Mr. Woodruff would prefer four-year awards apparently to give the athlete greater security. A few partial scholarships are awarded, especially in track, but most sports and football especially award only full scholarships.

Mr. Woodruff and the coaches stated that recruitment of black athletes is handled in the same way as with whites. The first line of contact is with the high school coaches, and second by newspaper discoveries. Also, loyal alumni provide useful tips about promising athletes. The coaches acknowledged, however, that UTK is not yet as competitive in recruitment in the Memphis area as it should be, in part because Memphis State has such a strong influence in that area. Undescribed efforts to overcome this problem are being undertaken. It was also stated, however, that based on East-West high school competition results, better football is played in the Eastern part of the state than in the West. More money is spent on football recruitment, Mr. Styles said, than on any other single item in the football budget.

The coaches and Mr. Woodruff adamantly denied any shortcomings in their recruitment of black coaches. In fact, Mr. Woodruff said, they are particularly objective in making these selections since coach selection determines in large part the success or failure of the various teams.

Mr. Oliver is one of the two head residents at Gibbs Hall, along with Miss Bacon. Mr. Oliver is responsible for maintaining discipline. He explained that football players are on first floor; swimming and football on second; managers, wrestling, tennis, baseball and golf on third; and freshman football on fourth floor. There are quiet hours every night from 7:35 to 9:35, with supervised study during this period for three nights per week on first and fourth floors. If any student's average falls below 2.0, special tutoring is provided.

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Mr. Oliver said there are no identifiable problems specifically related to blacks, other than that of facial hair which has now been solved. The coaches concurred in this conclusion. Mr. Peek mentioned student black athlete concerns that had come to his attention, such as the lack of black cheerleaders; stacking; inadequate tutoring or assistance in taking correspondence courses; preferential treatment of first-string players; discriminatory ticket allocations; lack of satisfactory spousal job opportunities; and specific counseling away from involvement in politically oriented groups on campus such as AALS. The coaches stated that they were unaware of these problems, except that Mr. Woodruff admitted athletes were discouraged from outspoken involvement in political activities.

The coaches at several points throughout the discussion emphasized that winning was their first and primary goal, on which their very jobs depended.

JJP:ma