



12-6-1976

Response to National Association of Black Social Workers Request for Tuition Waivers

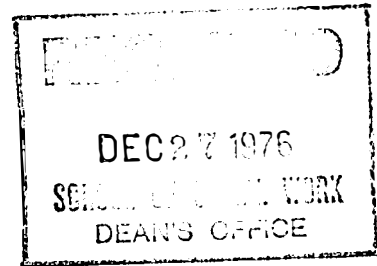
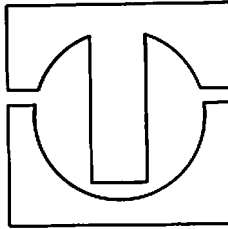
Commission for Blacks

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Office of the Chancellor/The University of Tennessee, Knoxville/506 Andy Holt Tower/Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

December 16, 1976

Dr. Betty J. Cleckley
Chairperson, The Commission for Blacks
The University of Tennessee
School of Social Work
2014 Lake Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Dear Betty:

I am pleased to respond, as President Boling requested, to the recommendation for tuition waivers for 10 black students in the School of Social Work, although my response cannot be affirmative. I want to explain why it is not.

First, we cannot waive fees for anyone. The fees are paid by the unit in which the student is enrolled. Funds must be budgeted for this purpose, as for any other purpose, and they can then be expended accordingly.

Secondly, in spite of the wish to do so for the very good reason for which the request is made, it is difficult to respond to one academic unit when needs are so great across the University for both black and white students. We do have a general non-service fellowship program -- as you probably know -- in the Graduate Office. In making those awards we try to be sensitive to the needs of minorities.

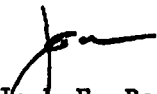
Third, it is important to recognize that the School of Social Work -- comparatively speaking -- has a good deal more money available for student aid than most other units. While none of us would suggest that it is adequate, it does represent substantial support possibilities.

What I would like to suggest as a means of attracting black students into baccalaureate as well as professional programs, is a concerted effort to increase support of the already-established Minority Scholarship Fund. This may be a project the Commission for Blacks could undertake with the assistance of the UTK Office of Development. The potential for greatly increased faculty and staff participation is there if we could put together an effective program to tap it.

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Finally, let me assure you that I am totally committed to the goal of increased minority enrollments. I want to work with you and the Commission in developing effective strategies for accomplishing it.

Sincerely,



Jack E. Reese
Chancellor

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cc: Dr. Edward J. Boling
Dr. Luke Ebersole