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March 10, 1976 Memo Regarding Intramural Basketball Officials Scheduling Practices

Commission for Blacks

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student activities

the university of tennessee student services building suite 413 circle park drive knoxville, tennessee 37916

March 15, 1976

Dr. Betty Cleckley
Chairperson, Commission on Blacks
2014 Lake Ave.
Campus

Dear Betty:

The comments about Intramural officiating made by several student members of the Commission at our last meeting irked me. Accordingly, I requested a detailed procedural statement from the Office of Recreation in that I had taken great pains to inform staff that black students were indeed to be hired in numbers to insure a "black presence" in the program. The reply is attached for your information.

I don't think it is wise for the correspondence to be released at large in that it contains specific names and "grades" which might prove embarrassing to the individuals. I did, however, want you to see the report in its entirety.

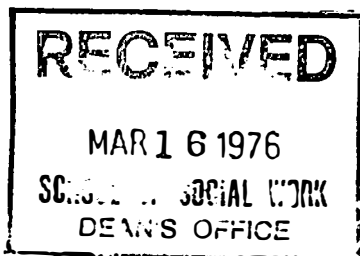
If discrimination did occur (and I'm not ready to concede that point) it probably happened when the supervisors were asked to "grade" the officials. Note, however, that one of the six student supervisors who participated in the evaluation was black and this individual participated equally with his peers in the entire process.

I will gladly discuss this situation in its entirety with the special Task Force soon to be appointed. The point in this correspondence is simply to inform you that I take this matter quite seriously and intend to follow through on any suggestion that racism is at play within any department under my administrative purview.

Sincerely,


Philip A. Scheurer
Director, Student Activities

PAS:th



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE 37916
OFFICE OF RECREATION

2106 ANDY HOLT AVENUE

March 10, 1976

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Phil Scheurer, Director of Student Activities
FROM: Harold Denton, Director of Intramurals *HD*
RE: Intramural Basketball Officials Scheduling Practices

The following procedures were used in procuring, grading, and scheduling Intramural officials for basketball.

1. Announcements were made at the manager's meetings prior to the Winter Quarter on the need for individuals to officiate Intramural basketball.
2. Personal conversations were conducted with minority groups on campus to secure black officials. (Joel Weathers of Omega Psi Phi and Hubert Eskridge of AASLF)
3. A rules clinic for officials was held on Wednesday, January 7 for all would be officials. Twenty-four officials attended. No black officials attended and only three women attended.
4. Basketball required that we have between thirty-five and fifty officials to work.
5. The Beacon was contacted to aid us in finding more officials. They ran an article on Friday, January 9.
6. The mechanics meeting was held on Thursday, January 8. Several students were picked up during the clinic (a few were black and a few were women).
7. After the Beacon article appeared, the total number of basketball officials went up to eighty-four.
8. All individuals who had missed the initial clinic were given payroll papers to complete, all basketball handouts, a rules book (while supplies lasted), a basketball exam, plus a tape recording of the materials that they missed in the initial clinics.
9. All who filled out payroll papers and turned them in were placed on payroll. According to our records we had sixty-one white men, ten black men, and thirteen white women.

10. All individuals who filled out and turned in the basketball exam were put to work. This caused all officials to work very few games for the first few weeks because of the bulk of officials. (A few were worked who had not turned in an exam. This was either by mistake or special wavier.)
- * 11. All supervisors were informed to grade the officials as they saw them work. They were looking for knowledge of the rules, proper mechanics, and hustle.
12. Weekly supervisor's meetings were scheduled on Friday afternoons to grade and cut officials. Grades were given on a A - C- range. A decision was made initially to not work any officials with a C grade unless we could not fill the schedule with A and B officials, (later this was moved to B-). The final grade scale indicated that we had five "A" officials, thirty-two "B" officials, twenty "C" officials, and the remainder did not work or were not graded.
13. Of this group of officials, the grades were as follows:
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| white men - A - 5 | black men - A - 0 | women - A - 0 |
| B - 25 | B - 4 | B - 3 |
| C - 10 | C - 6 | C - 4 |
| no grade - 21 | no grade - 0 | no grade - 6 |
14. The schedules were put out with A, B+, and B officials working predominately all the games. B- and C officials were placed in open slots or picked up when an opening occurred if higher graded officials were not available.
15. Of the black officials, Frank Cotton, Charles Lucas, and Tony McNary worked the most. They were graded B+, B, and B-, respectively. Frank and Charles worked extensively in the play-offs. Dennis Greer was graded as a B- official. He was worked until it was decided to no longer work B- officials. The other C officials (black and white) were scheduled very seldom. An example of how much Frank Cotton worked could be seen in his last check. He made over \$50.00.
16. Two "A" officials have called almost all of the quarter, semi, and final games.

This is the procedure used by the Intramural Office in scheduling Intramural officials for basketball and the general procedure used for all Intramural sports.

dlt

cc Ira T. Sliger