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Letter Regarding UTK Five Year Plan Revisions and Reorganizations

Commission for Blacks

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February 23, 2000

Dr. John Peters, Provost and Chief
Operating Officer, Knoxville
810 Andy Holt Tower
Campus 0184

Dear John:

As you know, the Commission for Blacks (CFB) serves as an advisory commission to assist with planning, implementation, and evaluation of University programs, policies, and services as they relate to Black students, faculty, and staff. Historically, we have been appointed by and served as advisory to the chief operation officer of the Knoxville Campus, the Chancellor. The Black Recruitment and Retention Committee (BRAC) is a Geier requirement. The purpose of the advisory committee is 1) to provide an identification network through which qualified black candidates for all UTK positions who are known to current employees can be identified and invited to become candidates; 2) to identify sources or methods through which qualified black candidates can be recruited for specific openings which have occurred; and 3) to explore ways to retain black faculty and staff.

Both groups recognize that the University has taken a bold step to become more intuned with the future needs of our campus community and state constituency. We want to be a positive influence and participant in these efforts.

It is hoped that the goal to "Cultivate a campus climate that promotes an understanding and appreciation of a diverse campus community" (UTK Five Year Plan Revisions) remains a major factor in the reorganizational decision-making process.

These advisory groups offer assistance to you and others as we, the newly defined University community, move through the planning and implementation phases of the reorganizational efforts.

Respectfully,

Dr. Roberto Benson, Chair
Commission for Blacks

Ms. Marva Rudolph, Chair
Black Recruitment & Retention Committee