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Letter: Feedback on Luncheon Meeting of February 22, 1978

Commission for Blacks

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February 27, 1978

Chancellor Jack Reese
539 Andy Holt Tower
Campus

Dear Jack:

I wish to provide you some feedback on the luncheon meeting which representatives of The Commission for Blacks held with Vice President John Prados and Associate Vice President Nebraska Mays on Wednesday, February 22. The following persons participated: William Cole, Luther Kindall, Stanley Lusby, John Morrow, Ralph Taylor, and myself.

At the outset, I would like to say that we were cordially received. Both Drs. Prados and Mays related to our concerns in depth. Further, they are well aware of the issues and difficulties involved in the College of Veterinary Medicine's recruiting blacks, students particularly. I believe, also, that Drs. Prados and Mays are both committed to having black students enrolled in the College.

Dr. Prados mentioned two possible approaches to alleviating the problem:

1. Increase the pool of minority applicants.
2. Establish a mechanism to enable minority applicants to complete the program.

In this context, he mentioned the Admission by Performance Institute that has been developed within the College of Law. He suggested that a similar program might be needed within the College of Veterinary Medicine. We all understand that if such a program were developed, the responsibility rests with Dean Armistead, his administrative staff, and faculty. The representatives of The Commission for Blacks believe that an Admission by Performance Program has merit as a device for enabling the College of Veterinary Medicine to enroll black students.

Chancellor Jack Reese
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We also discussed the need for black faculty within the College of Veterinary Medicine. At the same time, we expressed an interest in assisting the College of Veterinary Medicine to recruit black faculty. Finally, I might mention that as a result of our discussion, members of the Commission concluded that the unique structure of the College of Veterinary Medicine lends itself to some confusion relative to Affirmative Action. As a matter of fact, we are unclear about the mechanism for implementing affirmative action within the College of Veterinary Medicine. I believe these are the highlights of our discussion.

We were hardened by Drs. Prados and Mays sincere concern and interest in the issues. Further, we have confidence that these issues will be further addressed; and we hope solutions will be resolved.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Cleckley
Betty J. Cleckley
Chairperson,
The Commission for Blacks

BJC/sjh

cc: Vice President John Prados
Associate Vice President
Nebraska Mays
Vice Chancellor Luke Ebersole
William Cole
Luther Kindall
Stanley Lusby
John Morrow
Ralph Taylor