



1-12-1981

Letter From John Morrow to Chancellor Reese Regarding Jim Drinnon Appointment (Affirmative Action Concern)

Commission for Blacks

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Recommended Citation

Commission for Blacks, "Letter From John Morrow to Chancellor Reese Regarding Jim Drinnon Appointment (Affirmative Action Concern)" (1981). *Faculty and Staff Reports and Communications*. https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_blackfacultyreports/67

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The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Commission for Blacks

January 12, 1981

Dr. Jack E. Reese
Chancellor
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
539 Andy Holt Tower

Dear Jack:

The Thursday (January 8, 1981) edition of the Daily Beacon carried an article on the appointment of former UTC chancellor Jim Drinnon to a full time position in the UT legal counsel's office by Beauchamp Brogan. As Mr. Brogan indicated, this is a new position, and it is my understanding that all new positions are subject to affirmative action. I consequently found it distressing that there is not even a pretense of affirmative action in the selection process Brogan described in the article, especially in light of other current faculty and administrative searches in which affirmative action guidelines are being followed by the units involved and enforced to the letter by the higher administration, as should be the case. I do not understand how this appointment could have occurred as described in the Beacon, and I do believe some explanation is in order.

Sincerely yours,



John H. Morrow, Jr.
Chairperson, Commission for
Blacks

cc: Dr. Luke Ebersole
Ms. Betsey B. Creekmore