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1-28-1998

Commission for Blacks Meeting Minutes January 28, 1998

Commission for Blacks

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Recommended Citation

Commission for Blacks, "Commission for Blacks Meeting Minutes January 28, 1998" (1998). *Task Force Meetings and Interviews*.

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**COMMISSION FOR BLACKS
MINUTES: JANUARY 28, 1998**

The Commission for Blacks met at the Office of Diversity Resources and Educational Services (DRES) on January 28, 1998. The meeting was called to order at 1:09 pm by committee chair, Roberto Benson. Members present included: Roberto Benson, Kadesha Washington, Susan Mee, Rosa Thomas, Joann Jeter, Clark Brekke, and Alan Chesney. Two Graduate Assistants with the Office of DRES, Tonya Boga and Sami Randolph, were also in attendance.

I. Minutes of the December 17, 1997 meeting were distributed and reviewed. No changes were proposed for the minutes. Therefore, the minutes were adopted as printed and distributed.

II. Dr. Roberto Benson stated that he was unable to hold his regular monthly meeting with the Chancellor this month due to conflicts in the Chancellor's schedule. However, the Chancellor has asked Dr. Benson to serve another year as Chair of the CFB. Dr. Benson is considering this request.

The Chancellor also mentioned that he would like the Commission for Blacks to be featured in an article in the Daily Beacon. Dr. Benson has already been contacted by a representative of the Daily Beacon for the purpose of writing the newspaper article on the Commission for Blacks. The Beacon would like to feature the article during the month of February. Members were asked if they were interested in speaking to the Daily Beacon representative and having their ideas, thoughts, perceptions of the Committee appear as part of the article. No committee member present indicated an interest to do so.

III. There was some discussion regarding the APEC (Academic Programming Evaluation Committee). The Deans have decided which UTK Academic programs should be supported and which ones changed. Budgetary considerations appear to be a prime factor in making decisions. We should be concerned how suggested changes might impact on campus diversity.

IV. Rosa Thomas reported that she, Joann Jeter and George White met with Art Gatson of the Citizens for Police Review Board on January 22, 1998. She distributed some general information, which is not for public dissemination, for review by the CFB. George White has reviewed the information and made some suggestions which he will fax to members of the CFB for their review and comment.

Rosa reported that her committee has not been able to meet with Debby Shriver but will continue to make contact with Debbie so that they can begin working on the Chancellor's award.

Rosa announced that Rickey McCurry, a member of the committee, had another death in his family. His mother recently died just three weeks after the death of his father.

Rosa also distributed flyers announcing that Dr. Raymond A. Winbush, the Director of Race Relations at Fisk University, is being presented by PROJECT CHANGE at the City-County

Building on Wednesday, February 11, 1998 and asked people to post them.

V. Mary Robinson (Advisor, College of Education) has been chosen as the recipient of the Black Staff Development Fund Program. Ms. Robinson is completing her Master's Degree in Education and plans to enter the ED.D. program upon completing the Master's. Dr. Benson indicated that more information about the program will be forthcoming with plans to advertise earlier so that more interested persons might pursue application.

Alan Chesney stated that the NAPEC (non-Academic Programming Evaluation Committee) is still in the early stages of the review process. The Chancellor's office and units that report to him will be the first programs evaluated.

The meeting time will remain at 1:00. Members agreed that this was a good time to continue meeting.

We need to get representation on committees before the job description/position announcements come out to ensure head counts of qualified applicants.

The meeting was adjourned.