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## Commission for Blacks, Meeting Minutes January 20, 1999

Commission for Blacks

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**COMMISSION FOR BLACKS: MINUTES  
JANUARY 20, 1999**

The Commission for Blacks met on January 20, 1999 in the fifth floor conference room of Andy Holt Tower. Members present included: Roberto Benson, Alan Chesney, Jocelyn Milton, JoAnn Jeter, Ricky McCurry, Rosa Thomas, and Marva Rudolph. Members reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. A correction was made to show that JoAnn Jeter was present at such meeting.

The Chair stated that he is scheduled to meet with the Chancellor on January 16, 1999 to provide him an update of CFB activities. The Chair further stated that he had planned but was not able to meet with the BFSA Executive Committee during December but will try to schedule time during January, 1999. He stated that the Position Paper is being distributed to students and is on the Internet.

There was discussion regarding the annual BFSA Professional Development Conference. No one present knew if there were plans for a 1999 conference. It was suggested by the Committee that, since OHRM and DRES provide financial support to such conference, a joint letter from OHRM and DRES be submitted to the BFSA Executive Committee regarding this matter. (See attached copy of letter)

Because of the joint efforts and time commitments CFB and BRAC members will need to devote to address issues raised in the BFSA Position Paper, it was asked (1) if CFB would continue to hold its monthly meetings and (2) how often the CFB would meet with the Black Recruitment & Retention Advisory Committee (BRAC). After discussion, the consensus of the committee was that the CFB would continue to hold its monthly meetings and would try to meet jointly with the BRAC on at least a quarterly basis.

The next order of business was to decide the membership make-up for 1999-2000. Dr. Benson stated that he is willing to serve another year as Chair of the CFB. Members present stated that they are willing to remain as active members of the CFB for the upcoming year. Contact should be made to members absent from the January, 1999 meeting to see if they will remain as members for the 1999-2000 term.

Finally, there was discussion regarding the issue raised about naming a street in the Knoxville Community after Tee Martin. The committee chose not to support the suggestion because:

(1) Tee Martin has stated that the football season was a team effort and that if any recognition is made it should be for the team; (2) recognition by the University is usually made for persons who have graduated from The University and demonstrated academic accomplishments as well as other accomplishments to include athletics; (3) there are other UTK students (for instance Chamique Holtzclaw, Darwin Walker, Josh Tucker) who may deserve as much recognition as Tee Martin for their academic, community services, and athletic efforts; and (4) there are other ways to recognize Tee Martin and his accomplishments. For instance, the Gene Mitchell Gray award, the UTK African American Hall of Fame, and the Chancellor's Honors Awards are all avenues to

pursue. There will be further discussion on this matter at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meetnig is February 17, 1999.