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Letter Regarding Cos Increases and Financial Aid

Commission for Blacks

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Mr. Norman Johnson  
Box 773  
1720 Melrose Place  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

Dear Mr. Johnson:

President Boling shared with me your recent letter related to increased student costs for the 1976-77 school year. I appreciate your taking the time to write about your concerns because I share them.

There will be some cost increases for 1976-77. There is no way to avoid it. The maintenance fee probably will increase by 10 percent, on-campus housing by approximately 8 percent, and food for those on the meal plan by 4 percent. Like you, I am very much concerned about the fiscal impact that these higher costs will have on students, particularly those whose resources already are severely strained. Certainly these students will have priority for the financial aid that is available, as has always been true. The limitation is the amount of aid that is available. Four developments in this area are encouraging: (1) the special scholarship program for minority students has already been funded for 1976-77; (2) the Roddy Foundation will continue its support of upper-class scholarships for the 1976-77 year; (3) the minority engineering program is being expanded; and, (4) a concerted effort is being made to expand present loan and work programs.

UTK is committed to the enrollment of more Black students and the employment of more Blacks in staff, administrative, and faculty positions. The new Affirmative Action Coordinator and recently-formed Commission for Blacks are assisting the central administration in addressing these needs. I am sharing a copy of your letter to President Boling with Dr. Betty Cleckley, Chairperson of the Commission for Blacks, so she too will be aware of your concerns.

Should you have specific questions about the projected increases in housing and food service, please talk with Dr. Howard Aldmon, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. He will welcome the opportunity to confer with you.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Reese  
Chancellor

cc: President Edward J. Boling  
Dr. Betty Cleckley  
Dr. Howard Aldmon
Dear Sir,

Let's cut through the mire and get to the molen. We the students, the black students have been discriminated against. You have raised the fees taxation, to the Board. We have been lied to and cheated. We the things that belong to us now. The students at V.T. are mostly whites this school needs more black students. We the black students at U.T. are being screwed by the system. More black must be on scholarships, they must not discriminated against.

These fees must eliminated or action will be necessary in the way of non-violence, but only if needed. These actions could wake up all America to a cause that is needed. More blacks must be involved in the university. We want this action now, changes must be made. NOW! We are tired of being cheated and deprived of the right to an education and right given to us by the Almighty GOD.

Norman Johnson
Vice-President
AAPI Asian-American Action