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Commission for Blacks November 23, 1978 Meeting Minutes

Commission for Blacks

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The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

The Commission for Blacks

M I N U T E S

January 3, 1979

The Commission for Blacks met from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 23, 1978, in room 107, University Center.

Commissioners Present:*

Luther Kindall, Presiding
Wallace Bailey
Ron Brown
Roy Jackson

Joyce Jones
Dennie Littlejohn
Marvin Peek
Ronnie Perkins

Clara Welch
Others Present:

Mr. Joseph Fornes, UT Director of Business Service
Mr. Emmitt Lloyd, Deputy Director of The Minority Business Bureau
Mr. David Mills, UT Student
Ms. Thomasenia Robinson, UT-K Affirmative Action Coordinator

Minority Vendor Program (MVP):

Dr. Kindall introduced and welcomed the visitors. He stated that the Commission was interested in learning more about the recently approved MVP.

Mr. Fornes disseminated material which described the "specifics" of the program. He added that his office had also developed a "Note to Vendors" which explains the procedures for conducting business at UT-K.

Mr. Fornes proceeded to provide an overview of the program and described the role of his office in its implementation. He stated that the program is designed to support the University's fundamental policy of equal opportunity and to further improve UT-K's business practices. He also mentioned that the Chancellor's office takes the position that it is in the community interest that UT-K act to provide better opportunities for the minority vendors to provide their goods and services to the University. He explained that the major emphasis in the new program will be in identifying qualified vendors, providing information about the University's procurement process, and actively encouraging minority participation.

Mr. Lloyd discussed ways in which he could facilitate Mr. Fornes in the endeavor. He also noted that a major obstacle is the paucity of black vendors in the Metropolitan Knoxville Area. He asserted that there are a number of minority

*The appointment of student Commissioners is incomplete.

vendors in the State of Tennessee and the Southeast Region which could be identified for the MVP.

Dr. Kindall observed that the Commission plansto work with the MVP on an ongoing rather than a one time basis during the academic year.

It was further noted that agencies exist which facilitate minority vendors in such areas as bidding, estimating, accounting, bonding, etc. Dr. Kindall suggested that the following agencies be contacted for assistance.

Mr. Roger Ligons, Director
Tennessee State Office of Minority Business Enterprise
Department of Economics and Community Development
1012 Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, TN 37219

Atty, Edward Kindall, Director Statewide Operations
U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of Minority Business Enterprise
Suite 202
2701 Jefferson St.
Nashville, TN

Mr. Lewis Fort, Director
Minority Contractors Assistance Program
U.S. Department of Commerce
1420 Union Avenue
Suite 502
Memphis, TN

Mr. Fornes stated that such a synergetic effort would greatly facilitate his effort. He added that:

- (a) he and his staff are quite willing to work on an ongoing basis with the Commission's Committee on Affirmative Action;
- (b) the MVP will not be limited to the Metropolitan Knoxville Area;
- (c) the MVP should be incorporated into the existing Affirmative Action Plan; and,
- (d) his staff welcomes the opportunity to work with minority assistance agencies.

South Africa Statement:

Three of the objectives derived at the November 1 meeting were to:

- (a) provide a response to racially demeaning statement made by UT Administrators;
- (b) develop a positive relationship with the Tennessee Black Legislative Caucus; and
- (c) recruit scholarly black students and distinguished black faculty and staff.

It was noted that Mr. Beauchamp Brogan had refused a request by the Black Faculty and Staff Association to apologize for the negative statement that he made about blacks and South Africa.

It was also noted that the statement adversely affects the Commission's desire to promote a positive relationship with Tennessee's black legislators in that we officially represent the University.

As a result the Commission voted unanimously to request Chancellor Reese to convey to Mr. Brogan that:

- (a) we are gravely concerned about the statement which he made concerning black people returning to Africa;
- (b) we are requesting that he issues a public statement retracting the demagogic and derogatory statement reflecting his personal and racist attitude concerning black people both at UT and in South Africa;
- (c) failure to act positively on the matter will result in the issue being dealt with at the Black Legislative Conference in Crossville.

Minority Affairs Advisor:

The Commission was notified that Mr. Ralph Taylor has resigned as the Minority Affairs Advisor and that a search was presently underway for a replacement. It was noted that the replacement would have to assume additional duties in the Career Planning Office which would further reduce the effectiveness of the position. The Commission voted unanimously to oppose adding the additional responsibilities.

An ad hoc committee consisting of Mr. Dennie Littlejohn, Dr. Joyce Jones, and Mr. Ronnie Perkins was formed to meet with Dr. Howard Aldmon and Dr. Richard Nash concerning the issue.

Announcements and Other Concerns:

Mr. David Mills, UT student, requested the Commission to work more closely with black students in helping them with problem situations.

The Commission was very receptive to the request, but noted that the Commission as a body deals only with class action and institutional problems. In addition, he was told that the Commission welcomes the opportunity to provide job descriptions of persons who could be helpful with person and/or individual problems.

On another matter, the Commission voted unanimously to inquire why blacks are so disproportionately underrepresented on the Faculty Senate. It was observed that the Senate deals with affirmative action, tenure, promotion, and other policies which affect the plight of blacks at UT-K.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Recorded by

, Secretary
LMK/jl

Part 2 Commission for Blacks' file

CFB - Committees

Affirmative Action

Olde Welch, Chairperson
Felicia Felder
Roy Jackson
William Cole
James Smith
Orzy Theus
✓Ronnie Perkins (SGA Rep)

Black Studies, Black
Cultural Center, and
Minority Affairs

Dennie Littlejohn, Chairperson
Ronald Brown
John Morrow
Marvin Peck
Steve Giff
✓Keith Brown - in Student Emergency Conf
✓Sret Thompson

Promotion Tenure and Recruitment

Joyce Jones, Chairperson
Juanita Fain
Betty Cleckley
Don Franks
Wallace Bailey
Clifton Woods
Victor Boateny
✓Karen Payne

Research

Luther Kindall, Chairperson
Ronald Miller
Stanley Lusby