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Recommended List of Members for the 1989-90 Commission for Blacks

Commission for Blacks

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July 27, 1989

TO: Dr. Joseph Trahern
FROM: Camille Hazeur
RE: Commission for Blacks membership

Attached is the recommended list of members for the 1989-90 Commission for Blacks. For your information, I sent a memo to Homer Fisher a couple of weeks ago requesting permission to reconstruct the Commission and stated the following reasons (Homer went out of town right after he received the memo and didn't have time to respond): For the past two years the Commission has been relatively ineffective for a variety of reasons. One obvious problem has been its size; meetings were virtually impossible to schedule. In addition, there was an undercurrent of apprehension and cynicism in the group. In meetings, members would spend an inordinate amount of time chastising the membership for not acting on this or that issue. In general, the undercurrent prevented focusing on the activities that would carry out the charter of the Commission.

In 1988-89, the Commission was charged by the Chancellor to monitor the recommendations of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Race Relations, which in my opinion was an appropriate and sufficient task to undertake. The Commission failed to carry out this task primarily for reasons of lack of direction and leadership, and that failure has served to feed the undercurrent of cynicism. The membership recommended here includes some old members, but reduces the size of the Commission and adds some people who do not carry the old apprehensions.

John Jackson, former Chairperson, has stepped down to preside over the Black Faculty and Staff Association. I am recommending Dhyana Ziegler as chairperson for two very strong reasons: 1) She is committed to monitoring the Task Force Recommendations and is familiar with the spirit and meaning of the Recommendations because she served on the Task Force; 2) she is a forceful and competent leader who will focus the Commission on that task without allowing the membership to go off on reactionary tangents; she will also work cooperatively with the thinking of the administration and the reality of the University’s fiscal situation. (Should concern arise regarding her status as a junior faculty member, a reminder that she has been half released from
her teaching load as Co-Director with me of the FIPSE project, and will have ample time for this task. In addition, her Department is recommending that she go up for tenure during this academic year, subsequently all of her tenure materials will be submitted in October.)

We certainly welcome any persons you, Chancellor Quinn, or Homer Fisher might believe should serve. I have taken the liberty of asking Dean Shatz if she would willing to serve on the Commission and she has agreed. I also took the liberty of asking Phil Scheurer if our recommendation of Tim Rogers was a good one, and he thought Tim would be excellent. So that's the ball of wax! Oh, one more thing. We recommend Aire Nettles because we believe she has the background to provide some guidance on how one goes about evaluating actions recommended by the Task Force--I only hope she will agree to serve. Thanks, Joe.
1989-90 UTK COMMISSION FOR BLACKS (Recommended)

1. Dr. Dhyana Ziegler, Chairperson
   Assistant Professor, Broadcasting

2. Dr. Reginald Avery
   Assistant Professor, Social Work

3. Dr. Michael Fitzgerald
   Professor, Political Science

4. Dr. Handy Williamson
   Professor and Head, Agricultural Economics

5. Ms. Helen Mays
   Assistant Director, Minority Student Affairs

6. Dr. Ron McFadden
   Director, Educational Advancement Program

7. Mr. David Wyatt
   Manager, Food Services

8. Dr. Eunice Shatz
   Dean, College of Social Work

9. Dr. Arie Nettles
   Associate Professor, Counseling

10. Dr. Tim Rogers
    Associate Dean, Dean of Students

11. Dr. Charles Reynolds
    Professor and Head, Religious Studies

12. Lola Dodge, Director
    Affirmative Action Compliance, ex officio

13. Camille Hazeur, Director
    Affirmative Action Programming, ex officio