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Commission for Blacks Meeting Minutes November 18, 1998

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*Correction:
Add John Jeter to members present*

**COMMISSION FOR BLACKS: MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 1998**

The Commission for Blacks met on November 18, 1998 in the fifth floor conference room of Andy Holt Tower. Members present included: Roberto Benson, Mary Robinson, Alan Chesney, Ricky McCurry, Clark Brekke, Jocelyn Milton, Marva Rudolph, Judy Jackson, and Rosa Thomas. Members reviewed and approved minutes of the October, 1998 meeting.

The Chair opened the discussion by summarizing the Position Paper released by the Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA). He also discussed his meetings with members of the BFSA Executive Committee. The issues raised in the position paper center around recruiting and retaining African American faculty and staff as well as promotions into administrative positions. The CFB agreed that problems exist at UTK as related to these areas and want to help address them. CFB wants to work with BFSA in this endeavor but was unclear as to who is the official spokesperson or contact person for BFSA. There was also some concern about the method used to develop and present the paper in that (1) some of the information presented was inaccurate and (2) some of the persons identified in the report did not know and had not given permission to be identified in that manner.

The CFB Chair will continue to meet with the Executive Committee of the BFSA and suggested that the CFB develop strategies to address the issues raised. DRES will provide a copy of the 1988 CFB Task Force Recommendations to each CFB member. The committee will then meet to review and discuss the recommendations; develop a strategy for appropriate courses of actions; and meet with the Chancellor with our recommendations.

Members agreed to hold a working luncheon (11:00 – 3:00) to work on this effort. Members will be notified of location and date.

The meeting was adjourned.