

DATE: April 20, 2006

SUBJECT: *Geier* Status Report

ACTION RECOMMENDED: Information

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Staff will brief the Commission on activities concerning the *Geier* Consent Decree. Specifically, the Commission will be updated on academic matters that have transpired since the January meeting.

TSU has submitted two letters of intent to proceed to develop two programs. The first is a proposal to promote professional engagement in public work through a College of Public Service and Urban Affairs. There are no similar academic units on other campuses in Middle Tennessee designed to address the needs of government, business, and the non-profit sector by providing comprehensive undergraduate and graduate public affairs programs.

TSU also requests approval to proceed to establish a proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Urban Studies that is aligned with the proposed College of Public Service and Urban Affairs. According to the letter of intent, the proposed baccalaureate degree will be multidisciplinary to meet the needs of students seeking to enter professional positions in public service and urban affairs under four identified concentrations.