

Resolution Supporting Affirmative Action and the Civil Rights March to the Supreme Court

Whereas:

1. The University of Michigan is actively defending its affirmative action policies in response to two lawsuits being litigated in the federal courts that challenge the legality of desegregation programs in post-secondary educational institutions throughout the United States; and
2. The Honorable Patrick J. Duggan, Federal District Court Judge, upheld the University of Michigan's undergraduate affirmative action policy on December 13, 2000; and
3. The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit upheld the affirmative action admissions policy at the University of Michigan in a landmark decision; and
4. The US Supreme Court will hear the two University of Michigan affirmative action cases, *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*, on April 1, 2003
5. The outcome of these two historic cases will determine the legal fate of affirmative action; and
6. A victory in these cases can open up a new period of progress toward integration and equality in American education. A victory will help our nation reconcile the contradiction between the segregated, unequal reality of our education system – and the hope and pride that the overwhelming majority of Americans of all races feel in the prospect of integration and equality; and
7. A defeat in these cases will outlaw affirmative action everywhere in all contexts throughout America. K-12 desegregation plans would be barred. A defeat for affirmative action in these two cases will make *Brown v. Board of Education* a dead letter; and
8. The reduction in the number of minority applicants and admitted students at schools that ended Affirmative Action have been severe; and
9. Penn already struggles with attracting enough minority students and a dramatic reduction in the number of minority students would be dire; and
10. Only a very strong show of public support can secure a victory for integration and affirmative action in front of the current conservative US Supreme Court; and
11. Other graduate student governments, such as the Graduate Assembly of UC Berkeley have passed such resolutions; and
12. GAPSA, as the student government for all graduate and professional students at Penn, is the united voice of the nearly 10,000 graduate and professional students at the University of Pennsylvania.

Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. GAPSA declares its support of the defendants in both *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger* as the defendants proceed to argument before the United States Supreme Court;
2. We endorse the Civil Rights March on the Supreme Court on April 1, and will encourage our constituents to participate in the debate about *Brown v. Board of Education*, affirmative action, integration and equality to the fullest extent possible;
3. We support affirmative action and do not want to see the same radical reduction in the number of minority students at Penn that have occurred at UC Berkeley, University of Texas, and University of Florida;
4. We commend President Rodin for standing with the University of Michigan by co-signing an amicus brief to support Affirmative Action and commend the dean of Penn Law, Michael Fitts, for co-signing a separate amicus brief;
5. We call on the University of Pennsylvania to not follow the lead of Princeton and MIT (who closed some of their minority programs due to the threat of a lawsuit), but instead to maintain its programs designed for minority students.