

R033-0304

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
A BAN ON LEGACY ADMISSION PRACTICES FOR PUBLIC
UNIVERSITIES IN MARYLAND**

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40 **WHEREAS:** When legacy standards become a deciding factor for college admission, it
50 undermines the collegiate institution which should base its membership on
60 merit; and,

70 **WHEREAS:** Legacy is economically and racially unequal; and,

80 **WHEREAS:** Universities were not segregated until the 1960's and as a result, the pool of
90 minority legacy applicants is limited especially in the South; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** Most private and some public research universities implement legacy
110 admission standards to preserve university traditions; and,

120 **WHEREAS:** However, because alumni donate heavily to their alma mater, universities feel
obligated to carry out practices that will please alumni; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** Alumni contribute 28% of all private donations to higher education; and,

140 **WHEREAS:** For the 2001-2002 school year, alumni contributed an estimated \$6.83 billion
150 nation-wide; and,

160 **WHEREAS:** Legacy disenfranchises first generation college students, who are
170 predominately black, Hispanic, and non-affluent; and,

180 **WHEREAS:** The racial breakdown of enrolled students at the University of Maryland at
190 College Park in 1997 is 66% white, 12% Asian, 16% black, and 6% Hispanic;
200 and,

210 **WHEREAS:** The issue of legacy admission arose as the counterargument for affirmative
220 action; and,

230 **WHEREAS:** The University of Georgia, who lost its affirmative action lawsuit, abandoned its
240 legacy admission practices in 2001 to comply with the court's ruling; and,

250 **WHEREAS:** Unfortunately, Georgia's admission policy change was not a universal one
260 despite controversies over affirmative action; and,

270 **WHEREAS:** In Gratz v. Bollinger, the Supreme Court prohibited all undergraduate colleges
280 from providing preferential treatment on the basis of race; and,

290 **WHEREAS:** Because legacy applicants are predominately White, legacy admission provides
300 them with preferential treatment that is inevitably due to race; and,

310 **WHEREAS:** Banning legacy admission standards will enforce the Supreme
Court's affirmative action decision; and,

320 **WHEREAS:** Like the ban on preferential treatment on the basis of race, a ban on legacy
330 admission practices will further provide equal educational opportunities
340 regardless of economic or racial status.

350 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Maryland Student Legislature urges the
360 Maryland General Assembly to create legislation banning the use of preferential

370 treatment to children of alumni since public universities in Maryland use it as a
380 factor in admitting student applicants; and,

390 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** The proposal to ban preferential treatment to children
400 of alumni for public universities in Maryland be entered as a referendum on
410 ballots.

420 **MANDATES:** Governor Robert Ehrlich
430 Lt. Governor Michael Steele
440 Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller
450 House Speaker Michael Busch
460 USM Chancellor William E. Kirwan
470 USM Board of Regents

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