

August 24, 1964

Dr. J. Morrison Hutcheson
808 Professional Building
5th and Franklin Streets
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Hutcheson:

I am enclosing copies of letters I have written
to Messrs. Rouse and Stephenson. Following suggestions and
comments by Trustees, I have made some changes in the letter
originally sent to you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

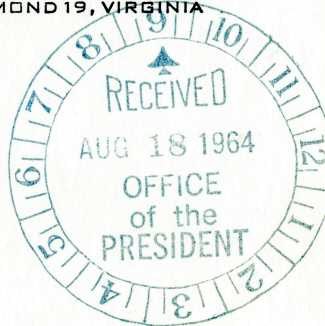
Fred C. Cole

P. S. I will answer other, similar letters in like manner.

J. MORRISON HUTCHESON, M. D.
J. MORRISON HUTCHESON, JR., M. D.
808 PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
5TH AND FRANKLIN STREETS
RICHMOND 19, VIRGINIA

August 17, 1964

Dr. Fred C. Cole,
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Va.



Dear Dr. Cole:

Your letter of August 13th, together with copies of one from Randy Rouse and your proposed reply was received. You ask that I express my approval or disapproval but instead I submit the following comments from which you may draw your own conclusion.

Mr. Rouse is obviously concerned over rumors that the Student Body will shortly be integrated, an event to which he strongly objects. He presents his own view as to what W & L has been and should be and expresses the hope that "you personally" will strive to maintain the status quo. To this, the only request he makes, you do not reply except by implication. You emphasize our published policy of non-discrimination, though we have always discriminated, and have a perfect right to do so. We have never admitted women, though there is nothing in our laws that forbid our doing so, and we do not admit applicants who scholastically or otherwise appear undesirable. Your reference to a dignified non-discriminatory admission policy makes no sense to me at all unless you mean that discrimination in favor of one race only would enhance our dignity. To me, it will have the opposite effect, as it means compromising, in response to temporary expediency, the traditions and principles of independence established and cherished by our forefathers through centuries. Indeed, to my knowledge, no one has ever before suggested that our policy lacks dignity. You also express the hope that Mr. Rouse will concur in the decision of the trustees but I doubt that he will know to what decision you refer.

Recently, I received a letter from the Education Editor of the Richmond News Leader inquiring about the action taken at our Board Meeting July 25th. I tried to give him nothing worth publishing, and so far as I have observed, nothing has appeared. It was my understanding that what was done at that meeting was not for publication. However, I do not enjoy writing half truths.

I too am gratified that Joe Lykes, Jr. is to be a Trustee but if he is like his father, he will not be pleased with what you are trying to do.

Your reference to my health and that of my family is appreciated. I am, as you doubtless know, afflicted with the slow gradations of decay. My invalid son, who has been in the hospital for over two months, may be somewhat better.

Dr. Fred C. Cole,
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Aside from your letter, when you spoke to me about the Executive Committee, though I may not have told you at that time, I had already talked to John Hendon about appointing him and I intend to do that. However the Executive Committee in recent years has become not much more than a name.

Evidently some fresh information is out somewhere as I have just received a strong letter from an Alumnus and will probably get more. If you have any suggestion as to how these should be answered I will be glad to have it.

With kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Morrison Hutcheson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

J. Morrison Hutcheson, M. D.

H/M

C O P Y

Randolph D. Rouse
-
William R. Carroll

RANDOLPH D. ROUSE ENTERPRISES
6407 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

August 10, 1964

Dr. Fred C. Cole
President, Washington and Lee University
Lexington
Va.

Dear Dr. Cole:

I have been discussing with some of the alumni and members of the Board the matter of integration of the student body. These discussions caused one of our alumni to send me an amusing editorial from this year's final edition of the Ring-Tum-Phi. In this editorial I did find one point with which I could agree and that was the statement that if we integrate we could get ample money from other organizations and individuals. This I am sure is true but I hope the university is not for sale to this group.

Since Washington and Lee is not beholden to church or state it would seem that our policy should be determined by the Board of Trustees irrespective of pressures being brought at the national level and without involvement in the politics in which the country seems at this moment engulfed. The introduction of students of the colored race can in no way improve our university, which is a private one and which is obligated or indebted to no-one except perhaps its alumni and benefactors. Let the others do as they wish and indeed we can do likewise, with apologies to none.

Our policies are well known to all and, if not, they should be made known. Someone has suggested that maintaining our present policy becomes a problem with "faculty members, prospective donors, and with the student body." I suggest that faculty members, if they do not like the policy set forth by the trustees who are charged with determining such policy, might consider moving elsewhere and that the prospective donors who will give as a result of the policy change will not outnumber those who would be lost by the same change, if we must look at this thing commercially. As far as the students are concerned, the same suggestion could be made to applicants who don't like the established policy - simply that they go elsewhere. I cannot believe, however, that a majority of the faculty and students would recommend that our policy in this regard be changed.

I have discussed this with many of our alumni in this and other areas. I have yet to find the first one who would favor such a change. I certainly hope that you personally will bolster the university's strength against the sweeping hysteria.

Sincerely yours,

(S) Randy Rouse

Randolph D. Rouse

August 13, 1964

Dr. J. Morrison Hutcheson
808 Professional Building
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Hutcheson:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Randolph D. Rouse and a proposed reply. I shall be most appreciative if you would advise me as to whether or not the proposed reply meets with your approval. Three other letters on the same subject have been received by me which require responses. I am also taking the liberty of sending a copy of this to the other active members of the Board in order that I may have their comments on the letter that I have written.

I am not sending a copy of the catalogue to you as I believe you were ~~sent one~~ last year. If, however, you do not have a catalogue at hand, I shall forward one to you.

I am pleased that Mr. Joseph T. Lykes, Jr. has agreed to serve as a member of the Trustees. I have received appreciative and thoughtful letters from Mr. Lykes, Sr. and from Judge Whittle to whom I wrote in regard to their retirement.

It is my hope that all goes well with you and that your own health and that of your family have improved.

Best wishes.

Respectfully yours,

Fred C. Cole

cc to active members of Board

PROPOSED REPLY

Mr. Randolph D. Rouse
Randolph D. Rouse Enterprises
6407 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Mr. Rouse:

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of August 10 in regard to the admissions policy of Washington and Lee. Please accept my apologies for my delay in replying.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a catalogue which outlines on page 73 and following the requirements for admission to the College and to the School of Commerce and Administration. You will find on page 245 and following the requirements for admission to the School of Law.

You will note that there is no statement which indicates a discriminatory policy in admissions at this university, and this has been the case since the inception of Washington and Lee. To my knowledge, no Negro has completed an application for admission. If and when a Negro does apply to the University, his application will be handled as are all others. The Committee on Admissions will review it and if, in all respects indicated in the catalogue, the candidate is found to be qualified on a competitive basis with other applicants, he will be admitted.

The Committee on Admissions will inform me concerning any application that may raise a question as to its merit in relation to others. Thus, the faculty of the University and the trustees can be sure that no applicant to this university is treated unfairly or unduly favored.

I hope that this answers your question and that you will concur in the decision of the trustees to assure that Washington and Lee has a dignified and non-discriminatory admissions policy.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Fred C. Cole

*This was drafted
me 8/20
appropriate letter
sent to inquirers
to date*