

Sent special delivery

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October 8, 1964

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

Dear Dr. Hutcheson:

I am very sorry that I missed you when you were on campus recently. It concerns me much that your family is undergoing so much difficulty in regard to health. I hope you will call upon me if I can be of service to you in any way in their behalf or yours.

I have been asked by the editors of the student newspaper to give some explanation of the admissions policy of the University. You will recall that it was the wish of the Trustees, in which I concurred, that there be no undue publicity given to the action of the Board in July. At the same time I pointed out that it would be difficult for me not to answer questions that came to me from alumni and others.

As you are aware, some of the Trustees have written in response to queries about the admissions policy and I have found it necessary to respond to several letters that I have received. I have also answered questions from the faculty, again in keeping with my understanding of my responsibilities. I now believe it would be appropriate to respond to the inquiries from the student newspaper editors, and attached is a brief statement which I believe outlines the position of the Trustees and the University. It is, you will note, in keeping with the action of the Trustees at their meeting in July.

If this meets with your approval, I shall hand it to the editors of THE RING-TUM PHI on Monday. When this is printed in the student papers it will doubtless be picked up by other news media.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Fred C. Cole

enclosure

Draft Statement
Oct. 7, 1964

Washington and Lee University's Board of Trustees has reaffirmed the university faculty's responsibility in determining standards of admission for qualified applicants.

President Fred C. Cole told the first general faculty meeting of the current academic year that the board "has no cause to doubt the appropriateness of this delegation of authority to the faculty and has no cause to doubt the collective wisdom of the faculty in discharging the concomitant responsibility."

President Cole said the board considered the university's admissions policy at its meeting on July 25. He reviewed for the faculty the board's discussion and described its conclusions.

Said President Cole:

"It was noted that no provision of the Charter, no provision of the By-laws and no resolution of the Board has established a policy of discrimination among qualified applicants for admission. Traditionally, matters pertaining to the qualifications of applicants for admission have been entrusted to the Faculty and its appropriate committees, and the By-laws of the University so provide. The Board of Trustees has no cause to doubt the appropriateness of this delegation of authority to the Faculty and has no cause to doubt the collective wisdom of the Faculty in discharging the concomitant responsibility."

A faculty Committee on Admissions at Washington and Lee is composed of nine professors from the College and the School of Commerce and Administration; Director of Admissions James D. Farrar, Director of Financial Aid Lewis G. John, Dean Emeritus Frank J. Gilliam, and Dean of Students Edward C. Atwood. Dean Atwood, who holds the academic rank of professor of economics, is chairman.

The committee reviews all applications for admission to Washington and Lee's annual freshman class of 330 to 340 students. A separate admissions committee within the School of Law functions there with the same delegation of authority from the Trustees.

In his remarks to the faculty, President Cole said no reference to race or color as a qualification for admission is cited in the University's catalogue. He said that all applicants for admission are subject to the same criteria as to their qualifications for admission to Washington and Lee and as to their promise of future academic achievement at the University.

President Cole said no Negro has applied for admission to Washington and Lee. He told the faculty that if and when an application from a Negro is received, the Admissions Committee, unless otherwise instructed by the faculty, can be expected to judge the application by ^{The same} ~~customary admissions~~ standards ~~and that considerations~~ ^{as any other} ~~of race will not figure in the evaluation of the applicant's~~ ~~ability or promise.~~

During World War II, Negro military personnel took part in the Army School for Special Services which was conducted at Washington and Lee from 1942 to 1945.