

JOINT RESOLUTION

Minnesota Student Association & Graduate and Professional Student Assembly – University of Minnesota

Date: December 6th, 2006

Author: Bree Richards, Vice President for Student Affairs, GAPSA; Max Page, President, MSA

Topic: Mandatory Minimum Requirements for Admission Applications' Ethnic Background Questions

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota recognizes that students learn best in a diverse educational environment¹; and

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota is committed to fostering a uniform campus environment of inclusion, knowledge, and understanding in which faculty, staff, and students learn to value diversity and to respect individual differences that enrich the University community; and

WHEREAS, ethnic background questions based on ethno-geographic origin provide for a more inclusive and consistent level of generality which minimizes confusion; and

WHEREAS, setting mandatory minimum requirements for admissions applications while leaving individual programs, departments, schools, and colleges the ability to augment their applications with additional options² as they please allows for flexibility without compromising a base level of inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, compliance at the University administrative level is essential for uniformity and ease of transition; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Student Association and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly recommends that all programs, departments, schools, and colleges restructure their applications for admission to base any ethnic background questions on ethno-geographic origin, with the mandatory minimum requirements for the ethnic background question wording to include the following:

¹ University of Minnesota. Systemwide Academic Task Force on Diversity. Transforming the University: Report of the Systemwide Academic Task Force on Diversity. February 3, 2006. Retrieved October 31, 2006 from http://www1.umn.edu/systemwide/strategic_positioning/tf_final_reports/diversity_exec_summ.pdf

² These are minimum requirements, each individual school or college is left with the discretion to add checkboxes as it sees fit—so long as subcategories of particular checkboxes are indicated as such. For example:

- Hispanic/Latin American
 - Puerto Rican American
 - Chicano/Mexican American

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ETHNIC BACKGROUND (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- American Indian/Alaskan Native
- (East)³ Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latin American
- Middle Eastern
- South Asian
- White (non-Hispanic)
- Other, please specify: _____

If you wish to self-identify further, please do so here: _____

and therefore

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minnesota Student Association and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly recommends that the PeopleSoft software that the University uses for its faculty, staff, and students (for admissions and enrollment) be updated to reflect these changes.

³ The word "East" is optional, and the decision whether or not to include it shall be left to the discretion of each college or university.