

RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEM

WILLIAM MARSH RICE UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
October 1, 2003

Resolution on Educational Diversity

WHEREAS, Rice University remains committed to its goals of providing a truly outstanding undergraduate and graduate education and producing internationally-recognized scholarship and research; and

WHEREAS, Rice University has long recognized the value and importance of diversity and cultural inclusiveness to the University's overall mission; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, in its recent decisions in *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*, has clarified the role that race and national origin considerations are legally permitted to play in a university's admissions processes,

RESOLVED, that the Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that Rice University should further its mission of academic excellence by recruiting and matriculating a broadly diverse student body as part of its effort to foster an educationally diverse learning environment, and that these efforts should include the consideration of race, national origin and ethnicity among the factors taken into account to achieve educational diversity, as deemed appropriate and within the legal parameters established by the U.S. Supreme Court in its recent decisions. We remain convinced that diversity of all types, including race, nationality, and geographic origin, enriches the learning environment at Rice and improves the quality of a Rice education for all students, and such diversity helps prepare Rice students to live, work, serve, and lead in our increasingly diverse society.

In so resolving, the Board of Trustees reaffirms its earlier statements regarding the importance of cultural and ethnic diversity found in its September 1997 resolution and Rice's commitment to non-discrimination and outreach found in its December 2002 resolution.