

[*File Black Students*]

To: The College Faculty

From: Ronald C. Johnson

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Member of the Admissions and Scholarships Committee

I am writing this letter because I am concerned about certain actions which have been taken in recent weeks. However whether you share my concerns or not, most faculty should be interested in some tabular data I am presenting. The following table gives predicted average data for freshman students considered for admission in 1969, predicted averages for black students who have applied for the fall of 1970, and predicted averages of students admitted very recently under the recently passed program for educationally disadvantaged students.

Table I

Predicted Average	Number of Freshmen Accepted for Sept. 1969	Number of Students Rej. for Sept. 196	Number of Black Students Accepted for Sept. 1970	Number of Black Students Rejected for Sept. 1970*	Upward-Bound Students Accepted by Committee
31-32		2	3		
29-30		5	3		
27-28	261	63	9		1
25-26	171	145	8		
23-24	60	183	2	4	1
21-22	5	169	1	12	

19-20	1		0	13	
17-18	0			8	2
15-16				10	1
13-14				4	4
11-12				6	
9-10				1	

* It is probable that some of these students will still be admitted, however all remaining financial support is to be awarded to the Upward-Bound students selected by the committee.

The predicted average was designed to predict the performance of freshman students and I am told it works quite well. As originally set up students with predicted averages of 30 should average a 3.0 grade point during their freshman year. At the current time, the scale is off by about 0.3 and they in fact average about 2.7. A predicted average of 2.5 suggests a 2.2 average during the freshman year, etc.

The prime concern of this letter is a recent action of the Admissions and Scholarship Committee. They were asked to select educationally disadvantaged students, who would not be admitted to Emory College under present criteria, but who have demonstrated marked potential beyond their present level of achievement. Nine students were chosen. All were participants in Emory's Upward Bound Program. In addition to accepting these students the committee instructed the Admissions Office to give these students preference over all other

applicants for remaining Rockefeller funds. The following table gives numerical data on these students.

Table II

High School Average	College Board Scores		Predicted Average
	Verbal	Math	
3.5	295	555	24
3.3	381	347	18
2.4	321	451	16
2.8	315	319	14
2.7	275	347	13
3.6	467	526	27
2.7	441	385	18
2.5	361	319	13
2.8	288	300	13

The high school average is calculated in the same manner as the college grade point. For comparison these are average values for freshmen who entered in Sept. 1969: High School Average, 3.1; Verbal Score, 590; Math Score, 625.

It should be noted that both parents of one of these students attended college and are now professional people. One of these students is white and one of her parents attended the Univ. of Georgia.

I believe these facts are correct and as unbiased as I can make them.
Now I will reflect briefly on them.

1. It seems to me that students with college trained parents are not very educationally disadvantaged.

2. Upward Bound students with very poor records were accepted in preference to black applicants with much better records. Moreover in the high school records of the two Upward-Bound students which I saw, there was no appreciable improvement in their grades during their junior and senior years. It is true that high school grades, etc., are not ideal predictors of college performance; however few would expect that the accepted black applicants with predicted averages of 14 to be as successful as the rejected ones with predicted averages of 24. It should be made clear at this point that most of the black applicants are at least equally disadvantaged as the Upward-Bound group. Although it may be appropriate to weigh factors other than academic performance in selecting students for the special program, it is hard to imagine factors which would compensate for a high school performance yielding a predicted average of 14 or 16.

3. I believe academically qualified black students should be admitted and given financial aid in preference to those who qualify only under special admissions policies. It is probable that one or more qualified black applicants will not be awarded financial aid due to the recent actions of the Admissions and Scholarships Committee.