

Admissions Policies Due for Overhaul

By Katie Williams

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“The academic growth process might stagnate if we don’t do something about minority groups.” Marvin Arrington, the new Assistant Director of Admissions believes that university student-recruiting methods need renovating – not only for the improvement of American society, but also for the university system’s own good. “The university has to get involved community-wise. Instead of being a sanctuary of learning, the university today is a social institution which is itself learning. To do this it must be involved.”

The new administrator knows Atlanta well. He was born here and has lived here for 28 years. He graduated from Clark College in 1964 earning a BA in Sociology. After a year in Washington D.C., at Howard University Law School, he returned to Atlanta and graduated from Emory Law School.

Arrington is also very qualified in his knowledge of community affairs. He has worked with the Office of Economic Opportunity as a field analyst in southern rural co-operatives, and is classified as a Community Service Specialist. Presently he is a Sunday School teacher, a newly-elected Alderman, and works with Atlanta Community Organization.

He feels that organizing disadvantaged communities is the real base of solving larger social problems. “People within a community know better than anyone how to solve their own problems. And if these people can work together for a better community, then communities can work together for a better city, and so forth.”

With his professional understanding of people, disadvantaged communities, and the power of organization, Arrington is very capable to plan the necessary changes in Emory’s student recruiting. Already proposed is the adoption of a percentage policy used by some other schools. In such a system a university decides on the definite percent of minority students needed for a well-balanced college community, and recruits from [[from]] this figure. This type of policy is already used by all state universities in regard to out-of-state students.

Also under discussion is the proposal for admitting minority and underprivileged students without the regular entrance requirements. Because the standards used for entrance

(i.e. SAT, high school standing) are based on a white middle-class majority scale, it is felt these requirements are unsatisfactory for measuring the potential of minority students, and should not be used in their case.

Arrington would like to see other things done at Emory. He hopes to see the Emory campus grow closer together. "When a wide variety of people really get together, it makes a wholesome atmosphere. I'm a firm believer that separatism won't work." He also hopes to see minority students helped to become a part of the community. "There is a step beyond admissions of a black or minority student. You need to provide a tutorial and advisory program to make sure he stays." Arrington feels that "the worse loss to a university is to take a kid in and just leave him on his own his freshman year."

Arrington believes in Emory, though, and its ability to attract top quality students of all groups. The problem of losing [[losing]] students to the Ivy League schools, he thinks, is not as great as it seems. "Emory has a good academic program. We can sell our program and not worry about our competitors. Don't sell Emory short!"