



Asian American Coalition for Education

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December 7, 2023

Subject: AACE Urges Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington to Stop Using Race in Admissions

Professor Magdalena Balazinska
Director and Bill & Melinda Gates Chair
Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
University of Washington
Computer Science & Engineering
Box 352350
Seattle, WA 98195-2350

Dear Director Balazinska:

On behalf of the Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE), a national alliance of over three hundred Asian American organizations fighting for equal education rights, I write to urge the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering to revise its admissions procedures and policies to comply with the Supreme Court's recent decisions of *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and the *University of North Carolina*.

In the Allen School's **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Five-year Strategic Plan** published in Fall 2021 (currently on your website <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/www-cse-public/publications/Allen-School-DEIA-Strategic-Plan-2021-accessible-final.pdf>), as part of Goal O.1, the Allen School stated it would: "[m]easure the percentage of domestic Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander undergraduates and, by year 5, evaluate whether the percentage is at least 15% (the UW-Seattle average)." Further, a series of tactics were enumerated to achieve this goal. Additionally, one of the stated tactics, O.1.5, was to "[c]reate and retarget summer programs for students who are underrepresented in computing."

Such is blatantly unconstitutional, even before the Supreme Court's recent decisions. Well before *Students for Fair Admissions*, racial quotas were found unconstitutional in

Regents of the University of California v. Bakke. And in *Students for Fair Admissions*, the Supreme Court found that race cannot be used as a factor in the admissions process.

As such, the 15% racial representation goal, especially when coupled with tactics intended to achieve that goal, is unconstitutional.

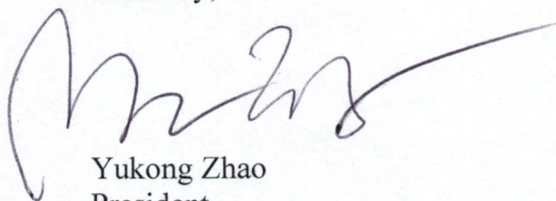
Well before *Bakke*, separate but equal was found unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. Thus, a summer program intended solely for ‘underrepresented’ students is not constitutional.

While AACE sympathizes with the intent of improving racial diversity in college campuses, we vehemently oppose the use of race as a factor in admissions and summer programs. We believe that such actions are illegal and undermine equal education rights for all Americans. The root cause of a lack of racial diversity is not meritocracy, but rather the failing K-12 education in too many black and Hispanic communities. American societies should hold the politicians who manage these communities accountable for improving K-12 education. We believe that this is a more effective way to address the issue of racial diversity than continuing to use race to discriminate against Asian or other racial groups.

In sum, the Allen School’s five-year DEIA plan contains at least two provisions that are blatantly unconstitutional. A comprehensive review of the plan should be conducted to comply with the Supreme Court’s recent decisions. We demand that you immediately stop using race as a factor in your admissions system.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Yukong Zhao
President
Asian American Coalition for Education

Attachment: Allen School’s **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access Five-year Strategic Plan**, published in Fall 2021