2018-2019 Williams College Council

Resolution 02-1819
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A Resolution in Support of Need-Blind Admission for International Students

WHEREAS
College Council acknowledges the value of the College’s existing “need-seeking” financial aid policies, one of the most generous in the nation for all admitted students (international and domestic students alike);

WHEREAS
About 60% of international students receive financial aid grants;

WHEREAS
The College’s mission statement declares the strength of a student body “is the product of the College’s resolve to search as widely as possible for students of high academic ability and great personal promise”;

WHEREAS
International students bring unique and exceptional perspectives and talents to the Williams community and hence make irreplaceable cultural contributions to the school and its mission as an academic institution;

WHEREAS
There is ample precedent for admitting foreign nationals without regard for their ability to pay, given that five other top peer institutions (Amherst College, Princeton University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Yale University) currently uphold this ideal, and that Williams College itself held this policy from 2001 to 2010;

WHEREAS
College Council is concerned about the College’s policy of NO need-blind admission for international applicants since 2010;
WHEREAS

College Council recognizes the adverse effects on the decisions of potential applicants on whether to apply to Williams College when the College chooses to not mark its international admissions process as need-blind;

WHEREAS

College Council recognizes that admitting promising students from anywhere in the world, regardless of need for financial aid, is a priority, equal in importance to any other intention, for an institution like Williams College;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Williams College Council, respectfully:

1. Emphasizes the importance that need-blind admissions for both domestic and international students alike has in making Williams a more dynamic institution that stands closer and truer to its mission and purpose.
2. Implores the College to reinstate need-blind admissions to international students as soon as possible.
3. Insists that the College not frame this proposed change as one that pits domestic students against international students, and that a need-blind admission process for international students does not, and should not, disadvantage domestic students.
4. Implores the College to improve its standing forms of communications with the families of potential and current international students regarding the processes of applying and maintaining financial aid.