

March 1, 2019

Dear Members of :

Alumnae-i Network for Harvard Women
Coalition for a Diverse Harvard
First Generation Harvard Alumni
Harvard Alumnae of Color
Harvard Arab Alumni Association
Harvard Asian American Alumni Alliance
Harvard Black Alumni Society
Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus
Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance
Harvard Progressive Jewish Alumni
Harvard South Asian Alumni Alliance
Harvard Tamil Sangam Alumni
Harvard University Muslim Alumni
Native American Alumni of Harvard University,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the very important matters raised in your questionnaire in connection with the upcoming Overseer election. My response is contained in the paragraphs below.

I believe that as one of the pre-eminent universities in the world, and a standard bearer for liberal higher education, Harvard has a strong responsibility to advance equality, justice, inclusion and tolerance in our society. In order to do this, first and foremost, Harvard should instill these core values in the thousands of students who graduate each year, eventually to become leaders, influencers and decision makers in their chosen fields around the globe. This is a fundamental mission for the University, one that will create broad, long-lasting, positive social impact. I believe that Harvard already is doing this, but the work is never completed, and we must adopt a spirit of continuous improvement.

Core to this mission is to promote and foster diversity at Harvard across many dimensions – including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic status. I believe that Harvard should specifically take account of diversity in appointing its faculty and assembling its student body. This includes adopting fair and balanced affirmative action and race-conscious admission policies. With respect to specific courses of academic study and curriculum, I do not feel qualified to make detailed recommendations. This is the realm of the deans and faculty. That said, I do not have any objections to an Ethnic Studies concentration.

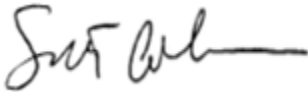
As noted above, the best way to encourage more diversity amongst alumni leaders and activities is to graduate classes which are diverse and for which diversity is a core value. Beyond that Harvard should recognize and support campus and alumni organizations from across the spectrum, and promote tolerance of and appreciation for, different perspectives and points of view.

Throughout my association with Harvard I have been committed to diversity and inclusion. As an undergraduate, I was a leader and captain of the Harvard football team, one of the most racially and socio-economically diverse organizations on campus. Indeed, I believe that sport is the great equalizer, where athletes from all walks of life join together as one team to achieve a common goal. As a longtime board member of the Harvard Varsity Club I support the broad range and diversity of our men's and women's athletic program, one of the finest in the country. I promoted diversity and inclusion in my role as Managing Editor of the Harvard Law Review, including in the selection of new editors, the election of officers, and publishing content from diverse political and philosophical viewpoints. I have been an alumni College admissions interviewer for nearly 30 years, and have always valued and weighed diversity considerations in my admissions recommendations.

In my professional life I have also supported diversity and inclusion. I established and today co-lead my firm's Diversity Committee, dedicated to expanding the representation of women and minorities within our professional ranks. I also led my firm's association with Level 20, <https://www.level20.org/>, an industry organization dedicated to inspire more women to join and to succeed in the private equity industry. Further I am committed to diversity in my charitable activities, which have focused on helping urban youth, many from ethnic and racial minority groups. I co-founded Impetus-PEF, <https://impetus-pef.org.uk/>, a venture philanthropy dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged youth in urban London. In Boston, I provide financial support to and serve on the board of directors of City Year, <https://www.cityyear.org/>, which is instrumental in improving outcomes in the Boston Public Schools.

In conclusion, I believe that advancing diversity is not only just and fair, but also makes us a better, stronger society. If elected as an Overseer, I will continue to work to promote diversity and related issues at the University and beyond.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Collins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Collins

A.B. '87 J.D. '90