B-school rejects proposed anti-discrimination policy

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Co-Editors

Although it seems to emulate the University of Virginia academically, the University of Richmond may not be so eager to follow UVa, and include "sexual orientation" in its anti-discrimination policy.

At its last meeting the faculty of the E. Claiborne Robins School of Business voted 20-4 to reject a motion passed by the Arts and Sciences faculty recommending that "sexual orientation" be added to the University's anti-discrimination policy.

"The motion passed by the Arts and Sciences faculty reads: The faculty of the E.C. Robins School of Business rejects the addition to the University's anti-discrimination statement approved by the [Arts and Sciences] faculty on December 6, 1990. We believe that the origins and bases for the motion as presented to us are unwise and potentially harmful to the University. While rejecting the amendment as proposed, the ECRSB faculty does wish to go on record as clearly stating that we do not condone personal discrimination of any kind on any basis."

According to Poole, members of the Arts and Sciences faculty said the motion grew out of discussion on whether the ROTC program on campus violated students' rights.

The B-school rejected the motion wishing to make a statement it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or sexual orientation.

The recommendation calls for the University to adopt a statement that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or sexual orientation. If further stated that, if no change in Department of Defense policy is made by 1993, the University should re-evaluate its relationship with the DoD.

The motion passed by the Arts and Sciences faculty states in part that the University should adopt a policy stating the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, age, handicap, race, color, national origin, or sexual orientation. The motion was approved with the understanding that it was a recommendation needing further approval from the Business School, Law School, A-Administration and Trustees before implementation.

Chairman of the faculty, said adding the "sexual orientation" clause was unnecessary. "A blanket statement that we don't discriminate on any basis covers all the bases that need to be covered," he said.

Economics professor Robert Nickelson disagreed. "What does 'on any basis' mean?" he said. "We discriminate on all sorts of bases all the time - salaries, SAT scores, ability to pay. We have found it necessary to enumerate certain groups for protection against discrimination."

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Poole said, "Many business-type people want to keep policy statements as neat and clear as possible." Poole said, "and some faculty members wondered how many additions would need to be made to the anti-discrimination policy before everyone was covered."

The ROTC question is being addressed through a separate recommendation by the University's Department of Defense Committee that was tabbed for further discussion at yesterday's A&S faculty meeting. The recommendation calls for the University to adopt a statement that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, sex, handicap, national origin or sexual orientation. If further stated that, if no change in Department of Defense policy is made by 1993, the University should re-evaluate its relationship with the DoD.

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