

Office of Diversity Affairs
Undergraduate Student Government

The Stony Brook University Undergraduate Student Government unequivocally opposes the United States Departments of Justice and Education's July 3rd withdrawal of policy guidelines that encouraged the consideration of race in the college admissions process.

These previous guidelines strengthened universities, emboldening them to promote racial diversity on campus and increase the representation of students of color throughout student outreach and admission. Understanding how race affects students' access to opportunities provides a more comprehensive understanding of who our potential students are and allows universities to create an inclusive campus environment and a dynamic institution of higher learning.

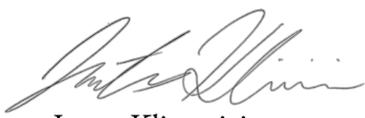
In providing an equitable opportunity for applicants, we must continue to take into consideration students' race, class, and background. We know that "race-blind" or "color-blind" policies do not address the years of systemic oppression or great inequalities faced by our peers of color. The reversal of these guidelines leaves the opportunity to unfairly give advantages to certain students and discriminate against others.

We thank SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson, SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman H. Carl McCall, and New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo for "furthering New York's commitment to equity and opportunity" across our SUNY campuses and for all students in SUNY and CUNY schools. We also thank the SUNY Student Assembly for similarly releasing a statement of opposition against these changes.

While we are disappointed in these actions by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, we ask all college campuses in New York and across the country to stand with us in supporting all of our students, working to understand & be cognizant of how race affects the everyday lives of students of color, and developing a fair, inclusive, and equitable admissions process.

Signed,

On behalf of the Executive Council:



Justas Klimavicius
PRESIDENT, USG



Ian Lesnick
DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY AFFAIRS, USG