**Are college applicants created equal?**

Potential unfairness leads to losses for all involved

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or a country comprised mostly of immigrants from countries all over the world, the US still seems to have problems with race and equality. One of the latest in a long line of controversies is the debate over affirmative action which has troubled the government and countless universities.

One of the main talking points recently has been the case of Caucasian student Abigail Fisher from Texas who decided to take legal action claiming that she was not accepted at the University of Texas because affirmative action allowed minority students with lesser credentials in her place. Though the problem may be clear, the solution is vague.

For example, the law school at University of California at Berkeley decided to discontinue the policy of affirmative action and instead used a colorblind procedure that favored socioeconomics over race to create diversity. When they implemented this technique the percentage of African Americans enrolled in the next year’s class dropped by nearly 60%.

Clearly if racial diversity is imperative to colleges then this system cannot be as effective, but here lies another issue. Is racial diversity or socioeconomic diversity more important for a well-rounded school environment?

The former president of the University of Michigan, Lee Bolinger, is very adamant on this topic. “…ethnic and racial diversity within a university setting is absolutely essential to the accomplishment of a university’s missions, and is at the very core of what a university does,” Bolinger said.

If universities begin to choose students because of race rather than performance, though, it is possible that weaker students could be admitted over more advanced ones, even if they might have been more successful at a different type of college. This situation is called the mismatch theory. The idea that everyone must go to the absolute best university is crippling some.

There may be no way to go about college admissions without upsetting someone, so then it becomes a trial in compromise. Among all the other problems colleges have faced lately, the first one for students, getting in, should not be such a large one.