Today, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a ruling in the *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard College*. For the first time in the Court’s history, the Court decided how private colleges may consider race in their admissions process. As a private institution, the Supreme Court decision applies to Xavier University. Today’s decision prohibits the consideration of race in the admissions decision process as a stand-alone factor, but continues to permit applicants to discuss - and schools to consider - how the prospective student’s race has impacted their life. We recognize and acknowledge the impact this decision may have on each of you but especially our communities of diverse racial identities. In this moment when your heart may be filled with questions and uncertainty, I want you to unequivocally know that you belong here at Xavier and we value the rich racial diversity you bring to our campus.

Recruiting, retaining, and graduating a diverse student community filled with an array of ethnicities, nationalities, genders, lived experiences, and ideologies remains one of our most important, core institutional values. Today’s decision, while emotionally impactful and a departure from prior case law, will not affect our holistic admissions decision process as Xavier does not use race as a deciding factor when considering a prospective student’s application. As a Jesuit Catholic institution, we believe that diverse student populations are required to serve our religious mission and advance both quality education as well as spiritual development.

At this time, the Court’s decision is limited to admissions but we recognize that the decision will have reverberating impacts in areas connected to admissions such as federal financial aid and scholarships. All of our institutional practices in these areas align with our holistic admissions process and are not impacted at this time.

Our Office of Institutional Diversity & Inclusion and the Academic Affairs teams are available to answer questions and provide support as you navigate this decision and seek resources to support students. We will host a virtual discussion regarding the Supreme Court decision within the next two weeks through the Take it On Initiative. When you return in the fall, we will have opportunities to engage on this issue through our Ignatian dialogue initiative.

We remain unwavering in our commitment to supporting a vibrant, diverse community where Greater Ignatian Belonging is achieved every day.

All the very best,

*Ivy K. Banks*
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