Today, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a ruling in the *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard College* which applies to all U.S. colleges and universities. 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. Today’s decision, while emotionally impactful, 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.

We recognize and acknowledge the impact this decision may have on each of you but especially our students of diverse racial identities. In this moment when your heart may be filled with questions, 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. 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 so we will continue to recruit and retain a diverse student body.

Our Center for Diversity & Inclusion and Student Affairs teams are available to answer questions and provide support as you navigate this decision. 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 continued 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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