

3/65

STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR JOHN A. DAVIS IN BEHALF OF  
THE COMMITTEE ON ENROLLMENT POLICY  
FOR PRESENTATION TO THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY COLLEGE

Two years have passed since various units of City College have been considering ways of increasing the presence of Negro and Puerto Rican students in this college whose preparation in the New York school system and whose cultural deprivation have prevented them from meeting the combined entrance requirements of SAT scores and high school averages. While the college has been able to do nothing, other distinguished colleges in this system and in New England have been able to move.

In assessing the situation, the Committee on Enrollment has come to the conclusion that each unit in the college has reported on how some one else can best solve the problem. The Committee on Enrollment has also been guilty of this kind of action. It, therefore, now proposes:

(1) That the basis for admission to City College be reviewed to include factors other than high school scores and SAT scores. Studies as old as those made by the Rockefeller Foundation 15 years ago reveal that the correlation between college boards and achievement in college is only .4 -- high school averages are only slightly more reliable. However, the evaluation of reliable high school teachers and college successes indicates a correlation coefficient of 9. There are many

intangibles involved such as motivation, social need and opportunity, leadership capacities, personality factors and the like. In all probability our selection of students in the great middle and lowest groups is far from scientific and fair in no sense. The school should address itself to this problem.

It would appear that at the combined averages which the college set for its cut-off point, it fell considerably short of its quota of students last year and will undoubtedly do the same thing this year. The reason is probably the competition of private schools in New England and upstate New York public and private schools utilizing New York scholarships. Would it not, therefore, be to the interest of the College, and also perfectly legal and fair to admit 50 students next year on the basis of SAT scores or high school averages and the recommendation of teachers of good reputation. Such an experiment would certainly be in the best interests of the College since the present method of admission is producing neither the number nor, for some people, the quality of the students desired. (The quality seems alright to me personally.)

(2) That the Department of Student Life and the Department of Student Guidance and Counseling establish during the coming summer programs designed to step up the achievement of the culturally deprived juniors in high school and seniors graduating from high school who, according to their teachers, can profit from such work, and that they further establish guidance and tutorial centers much like those that we have for blind students, to guide and tutor such students during their first two years of admission to City College. It goes

without saying that such programs will require the assistance of specific subject matter departments in the college. In all probability, the funds can be obtained from the Office of Economic Opportunity.

(3) That the School of Education take advantage of the funds available from the Office of Economic Opportunity to play its part in improving the education of the culturally deprived child in the elementary and secondary grades. This can be done by running institutes for teachers, by establishing a model school for the teaching of the deprived child, by studying and examining the techniques and methods of those teachers who have been successful with this type of student.