March 19, 2013

As current and former members of the Emory Alumni Board or its predecessors the Alumni Council and the Board of Governors, we have had the opportunity to work closely with President Wagner over the span of his 9-year presidency. We know him to be a man of integrity and principle who continues to have our unwavering trust and full support as the leader of this university.

After several weeks of media attention and, more importantly, widespread campus dialogue, there is consensus that the 3/5 compromise reference was a misguided choice. Emory continues to be a community of passionate educators, students and alumni who have a vested interest in the collective goals and inherent beliefs of the university. All voices need to be heard, valued and respected.

To this end, we, as alumni, would like to lend our voice to the discussion. One article does not and should not define a person, his work or his legacy. President Wagner has sincerely apologized for the article and the pain, doubt and confusion that have ensued and we accept his apology. We have confidence in his leadership and in his commitment to diversity as an essential component of an ethically engaged learning community.

Emory is in a far better place today because of President Wagner’s vision and passion for the welfare of all its stakeholders. However, his work is not done. We must use this experience to foster and promote open and honest communication throughout the university and to effect positive change for the greater good of the Emory community. We must also allow him to return to the many issues that require his guidance and governance as well as our input and involvement. For Emory’s sake, let us help each other move forward.

Isabel Garcia 99L

Laura Durudogan 85C

Beverly Dew Allen 68C
J. David Allen 67C 70D 75DR
Ellen Agnor Bailey 63C 87B
James H. Bailey 67OX 69C
Gerald C. Becham 63G
Clifford A. Bell 46OX 50C
Matthew S. Biggerstaff 01 0X03 C 06PH
Christopher Conrad Bly 99C 02L
W. Moses Bond 59C
Hal Newton Brady III 64T 84T
Thomas C. Brodnax 65OX 68C
Warren I. Brook 70OX 72B
William A. Brosius 85B

Kitty F. MacFarlane 81N 92N 92PH
Renelda E. Mack 83C
Roy Leonard Martino 72C 76M
Michael H. McDougald 52C
Paul M. McLarty, Jr. 63C 66L
Rebecca Hodges McQueen 76C 79PH
William R. Newton 75C 76G
Marjorie J. Nunn 61C
Chinonyerem Okezie 98OX 00C
George D. Overend 64C
Tommy L. Owens 59OX 61C 65D
Marianna R. Patterson 61C
Solon P. Patterson 57B 58B