



Ahead of Supreme Court case, UT regent criticizes admissions policies

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As the University of Texas prepares to defend its race-conscious admissions to the Supreme Court, a regent locked in a years-long battle with the state's flagship over its admissions practices said UT uses race in an "ad hoc" way that is "entirely divorced" from the school's justifications.

Regent Wallace Hall said his experience fighting for access to UT admissions records has raised questions about how the schools uses race, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Hall was speaking at a panel discussion hosted by the libertarian Cato Institute, which has written court briefs against UT in its ongoing legal battle with Abigail Fisher, a white Sugar Land woman who claims UT discriminated against her when it denied her admission in 2008.

"Given the deliberate opacity of the admissions program at issue and the lack of evidence, I don't see how a court can reject the Cato Institute's conclusion that the university uses race in an ad hoc fashion, entirely divorced from the stated justification," Hall said.

Hall, locked in a legal battle with UT Chancellor William McRaven over access to admissions records, has for years fought against leadership at the system's flagship over admissions practices. In February, an investigation found that former UT President Bill Powers for years has intervened in admissions decisions based on financial or political considerations.

"The result is a system that is unsatisfying to the majority of applicants at virtually every university in the nation and too easily manipulated by insiders who seek to avoid having to justify their decisions," Hall said at the panel.