

## 267. Hiring on wrong basis

Letter to the editor

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In his opinion piece “Universities stuck in doldrums when it comes to diversity” (*Chronicle Herald*, 21 June 2020), Scott Stewart, chair of the Student, Staff and Faculty Alliance of the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers, recommends that universities hire “Black and Indigenous tenured faculty and senior administrators” and include “dedicated spots for Black and Indigenous members on boards of governors.”

But universities do best when people are hired and appointed on academic criteria alone – and race, ethnicity, and cultural affiliation are not academic criteria. A university that has abandoned academic criteria cannot function as a place of free, open, and dispassionate inquiry and teaching. The post-academic university Stewart favours will serve no one well.