

314<sup>th</sup> Student Assembly,  
Senate Bill 314-\_\_\_\_\_.

A Bill  
to Recommend that the BOV apologizes for William and Mary's role in slavery.

**The Apology for William and Mary's role in Slavery Act**

An Act of the 314<sup>th</sup> Student Assembly of the College of William and Mary,  
Sponsored by Senator Tiseme Zegeye of the Class of 2008.

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2007 the Virginia Senate in a unanimous vote, passed a resolution apologizing for slavery. Then on February 24, 2007 the Virginia Assembly unanimously passed the same resolution;

WHEREAS, The University of Virginia's Board of Visitors on April 13, 2007 passed a unanimous resolution apologizing for its use of enslaved persons from 1819 to 1865 and commending the General Assembly's resolutions on slavery;

WHEREAS, Virginia was the first state to pass such a resolution and has set in motion other states apologies (North Carolina, Maryland and Alabama);

WHEREAS, the College of William and Mary owned slaves as cooks, cleaners, gardeners, butlers and workmen;

WHEREAS, students and professors were allowed to bring personal slaves to William and Mary from their homes;

WHEREAS, the College owned a tobacco plantation and its slaves;

WHEREAS, the College hired out its slave labor; and

WHEREAS, the Wren Building, the Brafferton, and the President's House are believed to have been built using slave labor

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of the College of William and Mary –

- (1) Recommends that the Board of Visitors establish a commission to research the full extent of the College of William and Mary's role in slavery
- (2) Recommends that the Board of Visitors express profound regret for William and Mary's role in slavery
- (3) Establish a memorial for the contributions of slaves to the College of William and Mary