

Diana is a post-doc in the mathematics department of a large state university, and has been asked to sit in on the graduate admissions committee. Their work is both tedious and fascinating, reviewing the applications of potential graduate students. The chair of the committee gives her a very curious task: get on facebook and look up each applicant and make a spreadsheet of race, gender, marital status, and “anything else interesting.” This is obviously a no-no in publicly funded universities, but Diana has no evidence that this data will actually be used to make decisions, and besides, this is public information put out by the applicants themselves. She knows that this has been done before and that the department is under pressure to become “more diverse.” Refusing to do this task or (worse) reporting the committee chair to some authority could be personally damaging to her career. What should Diana do?

1. Do what she is told. After all this will probably help ensure a strong group of women and minorities, right?
2. Refuse the task and explain that she is uncomfortable with it.
3. Lie and say that she doesn't do facebook and that someone else would be better at this task.
4. Report the committee chair to the University.
5. Produce a spreadsheet with very little information.
6. Other?