Dr. Kevin G. Walthers, the president of Las Positas College, was at Chabot on Tuesday, October 9 to do a lecture for Chabot’s Law and Democracy class.

Chabot’s Law and Democracy class is a new class to the community college system that is created to be more like a University of California (UC) or a California State students that have completed either Intro to Political Science or Intro to Administration of Justice. Being a team taught by Dr. Sara Parker and Professor William Hanson, they try to get great guest speakers like Dr. Walthers to come speak to the students about topics that relate to the lecture.

Walthers took time to discuss discrimination and race in higher education in the early 20th century, and affirmative action. This becomes a critical issue because many feel that only the best students should get in regardless of race or sex. What Walthers talks about is how different races go through different hardships on their road to success and how, even today, there needs to be a way to even the playing field.

With the recent case that has gone to the Supreme Court deciding on the future of affirmative action, this lecture became very valid. A white woman sued the University of Texas for accepting minority students over her, claiming she was more qualified according to ABC News. This ruling would create new limits for affirmative action or get rid of it completely.

“Diversity improves our education, not just for minority students but for majority students as well,’’ Walthers states. Many believe this will affect students like those here at Chabot because it may disenfranchise students of color. If affirmative action is allowed to continue, it should be carried out until 2028.

Walthers states, “To say that we’re going to redefine equity a little bit, at least until 2028, to say let’s make sure everybody’s going to have that same opportunity, to me there’s some merit in that.”