

Hello,

I attended TU from 1968 to 1972 and I am absolutely heartbroken and feel almost sick about what is happening to the university that I love. I grew up in Pawhuska and my father put 6 children through college. I went on a scholarship and the entire time I knew it was an honor and a real privilege for me to be attending what was then called "The Harvard of the South." The curriculum was very heavy on the Humanities. Dr. Ben Henneke taught my "Greek and Roman Culture" class and it was life changing.

This is so wrong and for so many reasons. Growing up, Tulsa was the big city for me and represented the best of culture in the region. It's where we went to art museums, the symphony, the opera, concerts, and plays. And the University of Tulsa was the crown jewel. The amazing productions put on by the Theatre Department at TU instilled in me a lifelong love of live theatre.

I've traveled a lot over the years and I've always been so proud of my degree from TU. Whenever anyone asked about TU, I would tell them it's an amazing Liberal Arts College with wonderful teachers and students. Dr. Phil was my biology lab partner! What you are planning to do will be the end of a great university. My children and their spouses are all college professors and the thought of teaching a 4/4 load would be a deal breaker for them.

If TU just turns into a technical school, all this great history and a promising future will be lost forever. I now attend the University of Arkansas as a senior citizen and I usually take History, Art History, or social study classes. The Art Department is in the midst of a \$120 million dollar expansion. Art in this region is a huge economic driver and the changes in the last several years have been exciting and far-reaching. Liberal Arts do not have to die.

I read Jacob Howland's and Tim Blake Nelson's passionate essays and couldn't agree with them more. Thanks for reading my letter.

Kind regards,
Mary Jean Parker
Class of 1972