

**From: Adriana Diaz**

Date: Mon, Apr 15, 2019 at 6:12 PM

Subject: Re: True Commitment

To: <[president@utulsa.edu](mailto:president@utulsa.edu)>

Hello I am Adriana Diaz. I graduated from TU's theatre department in 2006. I am sure you have received many emails and calls from concerned and disappointed alumni, faculty, and students. Restructuring and reimagining is never easy and many people will be upset and disappointed no matter what choices are made.

I have spent sometime looking through the different programs eliminated and I persevere the hardest hit to be my former program. Theatre is the only department that is completely cut. I graduated from TU in 2006 with an degree in theatre with an emphasis in costume design and a minor in musical theatre. I grew up in Tulsa and it was not until I started at TU did I learn all of the different careers in theatre. Since graduation I have gone on to get my MFA from the university of Maryland which was listed in the top 5 graduate programs for theatrical design. I now work as a regional designer and am faculty at a college in Phoenix. TU's small competitive program gave me lots of opportunities to grow and discover who I was as a theatre artist. Theatre is an apprentice style field where small programs are stronger because it means more one on one attention.

I also want to bring up the great lose for the community and to the school as it loses this department. As a high school student in Tulsa, TU was one of the only venues where we could see live performances that were professionally produced. My highschool drama teacher sent us to multiple productions at TU. Also TU theatre department has always had a dedication to the classics producing one classical piece every year such as Shakespeare, classic Greek, and Oscar Wilde. These have always been valuable to English departments and the community at large.

I also want to bring up 2 departments that you have saved that historically have benefited from Theatre.

Film has historically and still presently use Theatre trained individuals for all the production needs (costume, set, lighting, or management) Also many actors train in theatre then move to film. So to remove the theatre department instead of merging is an oversight. And for sure will cripple your film program. There is also the arts management program. I know many students that were arts management and theatre majors which is a natural pairing.

I wish that you had looked at how this department could have a larger influence on all your programs before it was cut. I know my current program in Phoenix visits hospitalized children and helps our paramedic and nursing programs by creating life like immersive scenarios for there program. If empowered TU theatre department could

provide the city of Tulsa and the university with valuable experiences that help shape a whole community even more than they already do.

I understand that a lot of thought went into these choices but I feel like the department does hold value and potential and hope that you would consider merging the department before closing the entire program.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns

Adriana Diaz