

From: **Andrew Pratt** <[\[redacted\]@gmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com)>
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 7:45 PM
Subject: Re: Engage, Grow, Succeed | utulsa connect
To: <tualumni@utulsa.edu>

To Whomever It May Concern,

Thank you very much for your email. As an alumni of the Kendall College of Arts & Sciences' departments of English, Classical Studies, History, and Philosophy (and would-be of Anthropology) with many, many connections to the School of Music; great enjoyment of the Department of Theatre; much more than passing interest in geosciences, environmental/energy policy, language study, and other liberal arts; and a personal friend of the son (recently graduated as a jurist doctor of Indian Law) of the late G. William Rice, I am greatly enthused that you (whomever you all are) would be interested in my opinions and services as an adviser for your current students. The idea that I could be of help to a student through more than just donations is truly thrilling. Still, it strikes me as a touch backwards. In the ordinary, tried-and-true, and ethically sound model of university education, it would be an individual faculty member who would provide such advisement and who would, through their personal connections to former students, request an alumn act as a mentor on a case-by-case basis based on need. The idea that the university needs to have a department of nameless, faceless personnel (for none of you signed your email with a name and your page on the TU website is bereft of any listing of staff) to contact alumni for such services bespeaks a degree of separation which must cost much more in salaries than it would save in cutting pay for tenured and non-tenured faculty for providing the same services while providing a lesser understanding of the mentor and mentee as suitable matches. In the wake of the ghastly announcement of TU's supposed financial struggles, it seems altogether bizarre to have (and no doubt hire additional) staff members devoted not to asking alumni for donations, but to asking them to perform services the university can already perform - especially given the refusal of the Board to divest a portion of its investment in the literal money pit that is Skelly Stadium and associated teams of dubious repute, the monetary strain of which would given any competent business leader pause, and instead has elected to close the (in-demand and profitable) theatre program and cut degree programs - often while not eliminating classes (the only reason for doing so would be to falsify a lack of interest in such fields to justify future cuts, which is neither a sound business strategy [why not just cut the programs, as had already happened with Theatre?] nor moral; after all, no minor has ever siphoned money from a university). I can't help but think that Dr. Clancy and Provost Levit have some incredible conflict of interest in their decisions of late, given how poor their judgment would be if they didn't have an ulterior motive (say, to serve the business interests of one George Kaiser). Thus, with unwarranted harm to all of the programs I have listed as being areas of my interest (including English - for the reorganization's dissolution of organically-developed and functional departments by subject into pyramid-like, bureaucratic echelons), it would seem that the expansion of your department (thereby further impoverishing the once-great University of Tulsa) to elicit my help seems about par for the course.

However, you have come to the right alumni for the job, for I will most enthusiastically take up the charge of your students. I will tell them exactly what I told you on your Facebook page:

Run.

Far away.

As quickly as you can.

For a university which cannot afford to support the preservation and promotion of the liberal arts (the fine arts, the humanities, and the theoretical sciences) and one which sees fit to dismantle programs it has been noted for (Native American Law being a continuation of its original roots, geosciences and energy business/policy being necessary extensions of and means of moving beyond TU's programs in Petroleum Engineering, and language study being crucial to the international business programs TU - the source of much praise in the past) but one which all the while will not cut its nine-million-per-annum-and-growing deficit in football alone or stopping its trend of expanding its administration with largely unnecessary services, all the while charging \$52 grand a year to attend, is clearly a university which does not have the best interests of its students in mind. The same quality of education can be found for much less elsewhere - and probably without having to give up theatre.

If whichever one (or however many) of you feels the need to contact me further for such services, please, feel free to direct your inquiries to me. I will gladly publish them far and wide so that all may see how well you and the rest of the current administration has benefited from the once-and-future TU Department of Theatre.

May You be Recognized by People in High Places and May You Find That for Which You Have been Looking,
Andrew Pratt,
Alumn, 2009