

April 30, 2019

Dr. Gerard Clancy, President
University of Tulsa
800 S. Tucker Drive
Tulsa, OK 74104
Via email: President@utulsa.edu

RE: Planned University of Tulsa changes affecting anthropology and archaeology

Dear President Clancy,

On behalf of the American Anthropological Association and its 10,000 members, we are writing in support of the critical importance of preserving the integrity of anthropological research and teaching at the University of Tulsa.

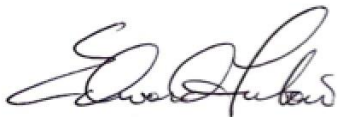
We have followed with keen interest the general outline of plans to eliminate the Archaeology PhD program along with future plans to cluster departments in the Arts and Sciences into larger divisions, which we fear will dilute the core of a discipline of knowledge that in itself ambitiously spans the entire sweep of human history across all of the world's cultures.

We applaud the University's "True Commitment" promise to invest in interdisciplinary studies and increased awareness of cultural diversity. To us, however, this argues against eliminating anthropology and dissolving it into a general social science division. Anthropology (including its sub-fields of archaeology as well as biological, linguistic, and cultural anthropology) is that field of knowledge that makes the world safe for cultural difference. The training that anthropologists receive is of enormous value in a wide variety of settings and is essential in a world of global connections. Specifically, anthropology promotes:

- the cultivation and dissemination of knowledge about civic institutions, citizen participation, and the foundations of community.
- the understanding of our common ideals, enduring civic values, and shared cultural heritage.
- understanding among diverse communities through the cultivation and exchange of knowledge about cultural heritage and history.

Rather than eliminating this field, it should be absolutely central to the organizational restructuring that your University contemplates. I know we stand with our colleagues on your campus when we say we are more than happy to help advise on a way forward that honors the spirit of the "True Commitment" while preserving the integrity of anthropological research and teaching at the University of Tulsa.

With my best regards,



Edward Liebow, Executive Director

Cc: L Lindstrom, P Stromberg, D MacDonald