

**Kelsey Erwin** <[redacted]@outlook.com>

Fri, Jun 21, 1:58  
AM (5 days ago)

to tualumni@utulsa.edu, me

As a Presidential Scholar alumni of TU, I cannot recommend any student attend under your True Commitment restructuring. You are gutting the programs that led to my success as a working professional. The Honors Program and the Philosophy and English majors at TU teach the most valuable skills for personal and professional life: written and verbal communication, logical reasoning, reading comprehension, listening, and the melding of it all into arguments that generate solutions.

Clearly past excellence is backfiring on you. Your curse, now that you have announced your intentions toward the liberal arts, is to face the criticism your university taught generations of proud alumni to give. The criticism is this: the TU Reorganization claims to further academic growth and rigor, but it does not. Its theory is harmful to the university when put into practice. Far from the promise of commitment, the reorganization abandons commitment to TU's most cherished achievements and principles.

I would love to support recruiting efforts for the university whose excellent programs and faculty helped me find my way to where I am today. However, under the reorganization, TU can't be that university. I want to see more funding for the Honors Program, more autonomy and support from the top for the humanities professors who go above and beyond as role models to TU students (what they actually say they need, not what the top thinks they need), and more transparency for any major initiatives that the administration is considering to sculpt my alma mater. No news is not good news, either--I need to proactively be told how TU will walk back its reorganization plans. I can't in good conscience recommend TU to anyone if I don't know what kind of place it will be when they arrive.

The TU reorganization has confounded the TU alumni community and adversely impacted the willingness of thousands of alumni who previously gave TU their full-throated, unhesitating recommendation. Repair work needs to be done for alumni confidence before TU can again leverage us as a resource.

Kelsey Erwin  
National Merit/Presidential Scholar  
Honors Program Graduate  
Philosophy Major, English Major  
Class of 2016

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**From:** The University of Tulsa | Office of Alumni Engagement <[tualumni@utulsa.edu](mailto:tualumni@utulsa.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:31 PM

To: [\[redacted\]@utulsa.edu](mailto:[redacted]@utulsa.edu)

Subject: Engage, Grow, Succeed | utulsa connect

Dear Kelsey,

The University of Tulsa Office of Alumni Engagement is launching a new student mentoring program that matches members of the TU community with current students to improve student retention, career placement and create meaningful connections.

The [utulsa connect](#) program is a professional development resource offered exclusively to TU alumni, friends and students to network, share ideas and wisdom, and enhance career connections. The initiative aligns with [TU's Strategic Plan](#) to actively engage the TU community in student recruitment and retention. Experienced professionals can offer advice and insight on career paths, company culture and industry expectations helpful in shaping student goals for personal growth and career placement.

Join TU's campus-wide initiative to encourage engagement among alumni, TU friends and students. Sign up at [utulsa connect](#) today!

Sincerely,

TU Office of Alumni Engagement