

Students for Responsible Change  
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Dear Faculty of the University of Tulsa,

On February 19th and 20th, students had the opportunity to vote in a Confidence/ No Confidence referendum in Interim-President Janet Levit.

Nearly one in four students voted in the referendum -- the highest level of participation in a Student Association (SA) vote in recent years. Of those who voted, over 75 percent voted No Confidence in Interim President/Former Provost Janet Levit.

The No Confidence vote clearly indicates widespread student discontent with the current administration at TU.

The referendum comes after a year of turmoil for TU. Since the announcement of the disastrous True Commitment restructuring plan, campus has been rife with infighting, fear, disappointment, and distrust. Campus culture has veered into hostility, with patterns of conflict between different sects of our campus.

Several talented professors and students have made the difficult decision to uproot their lives to pursue new, more stable opportunities, leaving behind empty offices and classrooms in their wake. These absences have already begun to affect the capacity of academic departments to provide resources to its members. Moreover, the administration's refusal to work with faculty and students to address concerns regarding the True Commitment plan has tarnished the reputation of this institution at the local, state, and national levels.

It is especially unfortunate that some faculty and administrators have been stifling student efforts to organize in opposition to True Commitment and the administration. In the weeks leading up to the No Confidence referendum, Students for Responsible Change (SRC) advertised the vote to the student body via posters, flyers, and leaflets. However, efforts to encourage students to participate in a vote of shared governance were thwarted by a swift and sustained counter campaign. It proved difficult to replace the posters at the rate that they were being removed.

In one case, Earl Johnson, VP of Student Services, was seen removing posters advertising the vote in Zink Hall. In others, a number of university employees were seen removing flyers advertising the No Confidence vote from academic and social buildings. In spite of the minimal advertising done by SA itself, it is our view that the administration both violated our right to free speech and inhibited greater voter turnout through their actions.

The Monday after the No Confidence vote, 600 copies of the official SA election results were distributed by SRC. Copies placed in ACAC were removed by a single student acting at the behest of administrators. Staff members were also seen removing flyers from tables.

We believe that the actions taken by faculty and administrators to delegitimize the vote and destroy advertising is wrong.

The narrative that the student body is largely apathetic towards the administration has been proven false. We are not apathetic. We are, quite simply, fed up. The direction the administrators are leading this university has been proven, time and time again, to be misguided.

In the last two weeks, we have seen little by way of change at the University of Tulsa. The Board of Trustees has largely ignored our voices, a theme that has continued since True Commitment was first announced.

Students for Responsible Change exists to advocate for the interests of the student body as a whole, and especially those most affected by the True Commitment restructuring plan.

We demand:

- Interim-President Levit and Provost Manly meet with the student body and faculty in a public forum so that our questions may be addressed
- The Board of Trustees and administrators take crucial steps to address the 8 months of constant, irreversible damage to this university
- The university undergo a full financial audit

We intend to hold administrators and faculty members accountable for their actions and continue to advocate for this university. We ask you to advocate for students and work collectively to bring about the best version of this university.

In solidarity,

Students for Responsible Change