

Dear President Clancy, Provost Levit, and TU Board of Trustees,

We are TU alumni. We graduated in different years with different majors. We wish to add our names to those of others expressing concern over the proposed changes in True Commitment.

We understand that some change is necessary. We share your desire to see TU flourish. However, given the planned severity of cuts in some departments, the novel reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences, and as yet unanswered questions regarding the methodology of selecting programs for elimination, we cannot have confidence that these announced changes are necessary or advisable.

Our specific concerns are numerous, but the following are the highest among them.

Firstly, the reduction of the philosophy and religion majors into a combined minor calls into question both the future availability of courses in those subjects and also the viability of the Honors Program. Philosophy and religion are foundational subjects, and many students not in the majors take courses in these fields. The planned reduction will presumably narrow the number of course offerings, depriving many students of a critical opportunity to embark on a thorough observation of life itself.

Furthermore, we are concerned that having a single minor will make it difficult to recruit and retain well-respected faculty in these areas.

Additionally, although the University has indicated some intention to maintain the Honors Program, we are unconvinced that it will be viable in coming years given financial cuts to the program itself and the reduction in those departments that provide a disproportionate number of its professors.

Secondly, the evisceration of the Department of Languages and associated interdisciplinary programs is perplexing given the administration's goal of making TU more prepared for an interconnected and globalized world. Chinese appears to have no backing beyond a minor. Russian appears to be eliminated entirely. Even French and German are apparently losing their upper-level courses beyond study-abroad programs. These language programs are valuable to a well-rounded, globally-oriented student populus.

Our concerns are not restricted to cut programs. The reorganization within the Henry Kendall College of Arts and Sciences into four divisions causes concern about the future goals of more traditional programs. By emphasizing the interdisciplinary aspects of traditional majors and potentially dividing departments into one of four divisions, we are concerned that even those majors that have been maintained will lose their character.

Tailoring these new divisions to "address cross-cutting contemporary issues" might actually make students less prepared for the future. There are indeed new challenges facing

humanity. However, emphasizing the contemporary risks neglecting the timeless. Emerging challenges are not isolated from the past and are rarely, if ever, unique. As former students we recognize that our educations benefited from the depth of our classes as well as the breadth.

Furthermore, we are skeptical that the challenges of the 2020s will necessarily be the same as those of succeeding decades. We are concerned that a program immersing students in problems of “the now” will leave students increasingly ill-prepared to confront challenges arising after graduation.

We find the language of the division “Humanities & Social Justice” troublesome. Perhaps it is unintentional, but framing academic disciplines as relating to social justice signals an intent to turn traditional disciplines into mechanisms for pushing a particular agenda. “Social Justice” is an inherently ideological term that we fear will both politicize traditional academic disciplines and encourage the neglect of disciplines not directly related to contemporary challenges.

Finally, because of numerous allegations from professors that the data allegedly supporting the need for changes is inaccurate, we cannot have confidence that these changes are warranted. President Clancy’s statement that the PPRC “wasn’t budget control” and “did not see money at all” only further confuses us as to the motivation behind the cuts.

Had these changes been in place when we attended TU, we believe it would have been detrimental to our educational experience. We are saddened to believe that with these changes, future students, including those outside of the directly affected programs, will receive a lower quality education than we did. For this reason, we urge your reconsideration of the announced changes and a fuller, more transparent engagement with the faculty in order to secure TU’s educational and financial sustainability.

With respect but severe concerns,

Dolores Duke, 1961
Judith Welham Fitzgerald, 1965
Michael Fitzgerald, 1966
Bill Hinkle, 1969
George Brown, 1972
Richard Dowdell, 1972
John B. Kendrick, 1972
Walter Gray Lamb, 1972
Virginia DeMerritt Schumpert, 1974
Ralph Tucker, 1974
Kevin Byrne, 1975
Rick Howard, 1975
Thomas D. King, 1976

Julie Holt McClay, 1976
John McFerron, OD, 1976
Jamie Wooley, 1977
Claudia Parr, 1978
Stan M. Ruth, P.E., 1978
Melissa Whiting, 1978 & 1980
Barbara J. Malloy, 1980
Clark Thayer, PhD, 1980
D. Mark Austin, PhD, 1981 & 1983
Robyn Stroup, 1981
Anne Jansen Broadwater, 1982
Salih Mortadha, 1982
Laura England Ross, 1982

Daniel C. Brown, 1983
Kari Cathey, 1983
Mary M. White Schneider, 1983 & 1987
Jody Garwood, 1984
Julie Tattershall, 1984
Julie Skye, 1985 & 1990
Barbara Eden, 1986 & 1990
Bill Watson, MD, 1986
Traci Robinson, 1987
Julie Giovannetti, 1988
Lisa Hutton-Johnson, 1989
Jamie (Osterhout) James, 1989
Steven D. James, 1989
Steven West, 1989
Anne Glidewell Bridgforth, 1990
Frank Conatser, 1990
Mary Fitzgerald, 1990
Michael S. Keller, 1990
Debbie Watts, 1990
Samantha Dent, 1991
Holly (Conner) Kyner, 1991 & 1993
Mari Ramsey, 1991
Melissa Schiavone, 1991 & 1994
Karen Kuchar Karsten, 1992
Kim Mooney Koch, 1992
Kenneth Warlick, 1992
Peter Aradi, 1993
Chris Burnham, 1993
Shawna Gehres, 1993
Matthew Oberrieder, PhD, 1993
Don Schiavone, 1993
Kory Dillman, 1994
Denise Dutton, 1994
Rachel Reynolds, 1994
Rita George-Tvrtkovic, PhD, 1994
Scott Kirkhuff, 1995
John Richer, 1995
Amy Scott, 1996 & 1999
Jeff Gaffen, 1997
Wendy Benford, 1998
Alicia Chesser, 1998
Matthew Norris, 1998
Brian Surratt, 1998
Ashleigh Siegfried Williams, 1998
Jessica Thompson, 1999
Shannon (Hill) Zuercher, 1999
Lindsey Lamb Banks, 2000
Ronald D. Smith, Jr., 2000
Kristen Gettys, 2001
Amber Tait Litwack, PhD, 2001 & 2003
Paul Lewis, 2002
Jason Radford, 2002
Brandon Rule, 2002
Daniel Tallant, 2002
Emily Tallant, 2002
Chase (Hyatt) Arthurs, 2003
Beth Hughes, 2003
Scott Hughes, 2003
Justin B. Jacobs, PhD, 2003
Samuel King, 2003
Christopher LeHew, 2003
Heath Miller, 2003
Julianne Romanello, 2003
Hank Willenbrink, 2003
Julianne Hand, 2004
Jared Kaltwasser, 2004
Phill Melton, 2004
Amanda Sigler, 2004
Grace Baldrige Carnes, 2005
Megan (Decker) Desmarais, 2005
Rachel Garcia Dye, 2005
Edward Highberger, 2005
Jon Peyton, 2005 & 2008
Ryan Redding, 2005
Karen Walker, 2005
Julie Ward, 2005
Brigid DeCoursey Bondoc, 2006
Meray Boustani, 2006
Nicholas Carnes, PhD, 2006
Kally Walsh, 2006
Stephen Cagle, 2007
Rachael Krob, 2007
Katherine Parks, 2007
Melody Charles, 2008
J. Matthew Huculak, PhD, 2008
Kevin Pearson, 2008

Morgan Riker, 2008
Andy Trevathan, PhD, 2008
Stephen Williams, 2008
Jonathan Wood, 2008
Katie Baker, 2009
Russell Hamer, 2009
David Liner, 2009
Andrew Pratt, 2009
C.S. Day, 2010
Nicolas Garza, 2010
Gavin Pearson, 2010
Karlana Riggs, 2010
Elena "Lanie" Williams Hubbard, 2010 &
2012
Courtney Chilton, 2011
Garrett Gibson, 2011
Kaylee Huerta, 2011
Sr. JHarmon, 2011
Jean Morgan, 2011
James Ryan Tognazzini, 2011
Alexandra Braun, 2012
Beth Casey, 2012
Amber Drew, 2012 & 2014
Timothy J. Orr, PhD, 2012
Beverly Phelps, 2012
Catherine Roberts, 2012
Malia Castillo Fields, 2013
Shelli Castor, 2013
Lydia Cheng, 2013
Nick Coyle, 2013
Cara A. Dublin, 2013
Leanna Duncan, 2013 & 2014
Kim Ivey, 2013
Kristen L. Marangoni, PhD, 2013
Teresa Morales, 2013
Carly Putnam, 2013
Lauren Redmond (Mitchell), 2013
Jake Bebermeyer, 2014
Alyssa Burscough, 2014
Jayson Burscough, 2014
Elizabeth Cohen, 2014
Christopher O'Neal, 2014
Michael Paraskevas, 2014

Joshua Pauls, 2014
Kimberly Poff, 2014
J. Christopher Proctor, 2014
Daniel Simonet, 2014
Britelle Smith, 2014
Magdalena Sudibjo, 2014
Maria Sudibjo, 2014
Wendy Voss, 2014
Elizabeth Walkup, 2014
Jeffrey Wilson, 2014
Kelly Bezan, 2015
Lily Clough Branstetter, 2015
David Chandler, PhD, 2015
Conor Fellin, 2015
Hope Forsyth, 2015 & 2018
Ryan Fox, 2015
Amritha Harikumar, 2015
Tara Moses, 2015
Kaitlyn Ptacek, 2015
Katherine Boul Svejkosky, 2015
Sara Douglas, 2016
Baris Gurun, 2016
Abigail Gschwend Harris, 2016
Samuel Herbig, 2016
Mary Holliday, 2016
Fraser Kastner, 2016
Luke Lehman, 2016
Christina Rardin, 2016
Joshua Rodriguez, 2016
Kristina Rogers, 2016 & 2018
Heather Ryan, 2016
Jason F. Sauer, 2016
Destiny Hrcir Womack, 2016
Walker M. Womack, 2016
Josiah Alexander, 2017
Seth Blair, 2017
Ron Curtis, 2017
Kim Mulson Hassell, 2017
Morgan Jackson, 2017
Jackson Longo, 2017
Jessica Pongonis, 2017
Mason Powell, 2017
Andrew Trac, 2017

Brennen VanderVeen, 2017
Zane Mackenzie Cawthon, 2018
Kyle Crutchfield, 2018
Sara Drost, 2018
Kayleigh Thesenvitz Harrison, 2018
Sydney Herring, 2018
Charity Hrnccir, 2018
Lauren E. Kesterson, 2018
Hannah Kloppenburg, 2018
Tristan Loveless, 2018
H. Mannucci, PhD, 2018
Julie Mitchener, 2018
Heather Morgan, 2018
Jacob Patterson, 2018
Daniela Rosales, 2018
Shannon Shang, 2018
John Talmage, 2018
John Turner, 2018
Carlie Wiseley, 2018
Joanna George, 2019
Mitchell Edward Lovett, 2019
Andrew Noland, 2019