

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Proclamation: AP-2023-08-01
**AN ASSEMBLY PROCLAMATION AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY CUTS
PROPOSED BY THE PROVOST**

Short Title:	Students Against Proposed Cuts
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Sponsor(s):	Olivia Scholl, Senator Daniel Madden, College Senator (Chambers) Andrew Indomenico, College Senator (Eberly) Gabrielle Frazier, Senator Susie Risk, President Pro Tempore Lilly Henson, College Senator (Eberly) Carter Leadmon, Senator Olivia Schmieder, College Senator (Davis) Peyton Bielinski, College Senator (CAHS) Joanna Switala, College Senator (Eberly) Riley Coulter, College Senator (Statler) Elijah Eastman, Senator Hyder H Arastu, College Senator (Eberly) Anna Witt, College Senator (CAHS) Tayler Pillo, College Senator (Reed)
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Committee Endorsement:	Academic Affairs Committee
First Reading Date:	08/23/2023
Second Reading Date:	N/A - Fast Track

Date of Approval: 08/23/23

Presidential Signature: *Madison Santmyer*

Whereas, the West Virginia University mission statement reads, "[we] commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education...prosperity for all...and advance high-impact research...by leading transformation in West Virginia and the world through local, state and global engagement¹;" and,

Whereas, the West Virginia University Student Government Association's mission statement reads that, "We, the students of West Virginia University, desire to preserve within our University...an atmosphere that helps to foster an open exchange of ideas with civil discussion, inquiry, and self-expression to help ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected²;" and,

Whereas, the University, as a land-grant institution, was created for the purpose of expanding educational opportunities to underserved communities^{3,4}; and,

Whereas, the proposed changes laid out by the Provost's office call for approximately 169 faculty positions to be terminated⁵, disproportionately impacting some colleges more than others; and,

Whereas, these recommendations include the termination of multiple departments, including the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics; the Department of Public Administration, the Resource and Economic Management Division, and the Design and Community Development Division⁵; and,

Whereas, over 430 current students are expected to be directly impacted by the restructuring proposed by the Provost⁵; and,

¹ <https://www.wvu.edu/about-wvu/mission>

² <https://sga.wvu.edu/about/our-mission>

³ <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/morrill-act>

⁴ <https://landgrantcenter.wvu.edu/about>

⁵ https://www.thedaonline.com/news/university/university-officials-release-preliminary-recommendations-for-program-cuts-faculty-reductions/article_f1fa85b0-3878-11ee-af44-f7e590c2e151.html

Whereas, student feedback, which is generally appreciated and solicited by administrators, has been limited in this process; and,

Whereas, representatives of the student body are not included in the appeals process due to BOG rules⁶; and,

Whereas, these changes could significantly damage the student experience at West Virginia University through the possibility of larger class sizes, fewer research opportunities, and fewer student organizations, due to a strained and reduced faculty⁷; and,

Whereas, the recommended reductions will diminish the educational and developmental opportunities for current and prospective students across the state, undermining the University's land-grant mission.

Therefore, be it proclaimed by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: The restructuring process undertaken by the University has not adequately addressed student concerns;

Section 2: WVU SGA opposes the cuts proposed by the Provost and urges the University to reconsider that course of action;

Section 3: WVU SGA is currently working on a resolution to make comprehensive recommendations to University leadership on finalized decisions on academic proposals;

Section 4: WVU SGA is currently creating, to the full extent of our ability, a framework for collecting student input through town halls, tabling, surveys, etc.

Mandates:

⁶ <https://policies.wvu.edu/finalized-bog-rules/bog-academics-rule-2-2-program-creation-and-review>

⁷ See Appendix A. As an example, the Mathematics Department is slated to be reduced by 18 faculty members, representing a 38% loss. More severe is the loss by the Plant and Soil Sciences unit of the Davis College, which is slated to be reduced by 52%.

Dr. E. Gordon Gee, President
Maryanne Reed, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Evan Widders, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
Rob Alsop, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Tracy Morris, Associate Provost for Academic Personnel
Dr. Mark Gavin, Associate Provost for Academic, Budget, Facilities, and Strategic Initiatives
G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Madison Santmyer, Student Body President
Farzana Islam Tamanna, GPSS President
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Karsey Prichard, Executive Secretary
Frankie Tack, Faculty Senate Chair
Shirley Robinson, Staff Council Chair
Dr. Autumn Tooms Cyprés, Dean of the College of Applied Human Sciences
Dr. Darrell Donahue, Dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design
Dr. Gregory Dunaway, Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Tara Hulse, Dean of the School of Nursing
Dr. Keith Jackson, Dean of the College of Creative Arts
Dr. Pedro J. Mago, Dean of the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
Dr. Clay Marsh, Dean of the the School of Medicine, and Executive Dean for Health Sciences
Dr. Diana Martinelli, Dean of the Reed College of Media
Dr. Stephen Pachuta, Dean of the School of Dentistry
Dr. Bill Petros, Dean of the School of Pharmacy
Amelia Smith Rinehart, Dean of the College of Law
Daily Athenaeum

APPENDIX A-RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS⁸

Unit	Faculty Reduction Recommendation	Faculty Remaining Recommendation	% Reduction
Civil/Environmental Engineering	4	14	22%
Computer Science/Electrical Engineering	7	28	20%
Mining Engineering	1	5	17%
Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering	1	5	17%
School of Education	9	18	33%
School of Art and Design	7	15	32%
School of Music	8	33	20%

⁸ All figures taken from:
<https://provost.wvu.edu/academic-transformation/academic-program-portfolio-review>

School of Theatre and Dance	4	16	20%
College of Law	5	24	17%
Design and Community Development	11	16	41%
Forestry and Natural Resources	6	22	21%
Plant and Soil Sciences	11	10	52%
Resource and Economics Management	0	8	0%
Women and Gender Studies	0	8	0%
Chemistry	5	23	18%
Communication Studies	5	11	31%
English	10	26	28%
Mathematical and Data Sciences	18	30	38%
Philosophy	0	8	0%
Public Administration	5	0	100%
World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	24	0	100%

Management	2	17	11%
Human Performance and Communication Sciences Disorders	4	18	18%
School of Pharmacy	8	33	20%
School of Public Health	14	26	35%