

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Proclamation: AP-2025-04-01
**AN ASSEMBLY PROCLAMATION TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND
CREATIVE ACTIVITY IN THE CREATIVE ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

Short Title: Supporting Creative Arts and Humanities Research

**Author(s): Andrew Indomenico, Senator
Emma Plymale, Senator**

**Sponsor(s): Elise Vuiller, Senator
Lilly Henson, College Senator (Eberly)
Cate Magrogan, College Senator (HSC)
Matthew Olivero, President Pro Tempore
Shelby Davis, Senator
Olivia E. Robinson, College Senator (Eberly)**

Contributor(s):

Committee Endorsement: Academic Affairs

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Second Reading Date: 4/9/2025

Date of Approval: 4/9/2025

Presidential Signature: 

Whereas, the West Virginia University Mission Statement reads: “As a land-grant institution, the faculty, staff and students at West Virginia University commit to creating a diverse and inclusive culture that advances education, healthcare and prosperity for all by providing access and opportunity [...] by advancing high-impact research”, and,

Whereas, the WVU SGA Mission Statement reads: “We, the students of West Virginia

University, desire to preserve within our University and the Student Government Association, an atmosphere that helps to foster an open exchange of ideas with civil discussion, inquiry, and self-expression”, and,

Whereas, the Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) at West Virginia University “is an apprenticeship program for students interested in learning the fundamentals of conducting research and creative inquiry under the supervision of a faculty mentor,”¹ and,

Whereas, undergraduate research has been demonstrated to improve student retention and success rates, specifically at West Virginia University², and,

Whereas, participation in undergraduate research is important for admission to graduate programs³, and,

Whereas, contrary to popular belief, those with degrees in the humanities and creative arts have been shown to perform similarly in the labor market to those with STEM degrees⁴, and,

Whereas, research in the arts and humanities is severely underfunded nationally⁵, and,

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

Section 1: WVU SGA expresses support for students and faculty engaged in research and creative activity in the creative arts and humanities at WVU.

Section 2: WVU SGA encourages the University administration to continue to support students engaged in research and creative activity in the creative arts and humanities through research apprenticeship programs and promotion of research activities.

¹ <https://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu/>

² <https://www.cur.org/journal-article/increasing-undergraduate-retention-in-appalachia-through-a-mentored-undergraduate-research-experience/>

³ <https://pages.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/agre/grad-school.html#:~:text=Getting%20good%20grades%20in%20your,in%20retrospect%20it's%20obvious%20why.>

⁴ <https://www.athensjournals.gr/humanities/2024-11-4-1-Oberhelman.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/public-humanities/article/humanities-decline-in-darkness-how-humanities-research-funding-works/54F12CB0DB7D07F93C2B28CDBDB70453>

Mandates:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
University President Gordon E. Gee
Daily Athenaeum
Charlie Long, Student Body President
Abigail Browning, Student Body Vice President
Haley Orcutt, Executive Secretary
Dr. Cinthia Pacheco, Director of Undergraduate Research
Dr. Mikylah Myers, Associate Dean of Research and Creative Activity, CCAM
Dr. Gregory Dunaway, Dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. H. Keith Jackson, Dean of the College of Creative Arts and Media
