

From: Nick Carnes, Ph.D.
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 12:45 PM
To: president@utulsa.edu
Cc: kalpana-misra@utulsa.edu; janet-levit@utulsa.edu; amy-freiberger@utulsa.edu
Subject: Re: True Commitment

Dear President Clancy,

I'm an alum with a BA in Political Science from 2006. I understand the value of the kind of professional school you want TU to be -- I'm a tenured professor in a great professional school at Duke. But I also understand the value of a real liberal arts education -- my experience in Political Science, Sociology, Economics, and the Honors Program at Tulsa made me the researcher and teacher I am today. **I'm deeply concerned that the plan you've emailed me about will seriously undermine the liberal arts core that made the University of Tulsa an exceptional place.**

I appreciate the hard work you and your administration have done the last few months, but **many features of your process strike me as deeply flawed**, chief among them attempting to wrap up a floor-to-ceiling overhaul of such a large organization in 10 months, excluding faculty from the humanities and social sciences from the committee leading the process, and rolling out the proposed changes at the end of the academic year when there's less time for thoughtful deliberation.

And I think **those process failures are reflected in the final product. The proposal you've laid out is fundamentally out of touch with the University of Tulsa's strengths and potential.** The way you've proposed restructuring high-functioning programs in the humanities and social sciences will ultimately starve them, drive some of your best faculty away, make it difficult to hire good faculty, and kill off the things that made TU such the incredible liberal arts college that you inherited. Doing all this in pursuit of the goal of growing majors "that offer the most in-demand skill sets in the 21st century" is profoundly short-sited and misses what makes TU great, and more broadly, what a liberal arts university should be. Universities aren't just job-training programs, they're social institutions that preserve, create, and share the world's most valuable insights. And no part of TU does that better or in a more serious way than the humanities and social sciences that your plan will dismantle.

I hope I'm wrong, or that you'll change course. I've always bragged about going to TU, and argued that my alma mater is intellectually the equal of any university in the country. In my faculty office at Duke, I used to have my BA from Tulsa proudly displayed alongside my MA and PhD from Princeton.

It broke my heart to take my undergraduate diploma off my office wall at Duke today, but I can't stand by the version of TU that you've outlined. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas Carnes
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