

To the Committee,

My name is Daniel Curtis and I am in the process of attaining my Master of Public Administration. I am writing to urge the committee to advise against suspension of my program. I urge this, not just on the grounds that, through stifling this program, Maine's Citizens and the University will face serious short comings, but also on the ground that the suspension is poorly justified by the administration.

Part of the University's mission is to teach public service as a means to improve Mainers' lives, but the Administration has decided to throw that part of the mission out. When Maine's current public servants retire, many of them trained in this program, the citizens will lose out and will have a lower quality of service in their communities.

I am sure others have spoken at length on what Public Administration graduates bring to this State and on the activeness of the current contributions made by our professors, including two books put out in the past two years or so. Our undergraduate enrollment is small but each and every one of the graduates must complete an internship , usually volunteer, for a non-profit or governmental body. I dare say, that pound for pound, no other program at this university provides as much commitment and practical hands on contributions to the betterment of this State, as does the Department of Public Administration.

I understand that there are large budget issues that must be addressed. I don't understand cutting such an inexpensive program to solve them, without justification. The APPWG committee made a recommendation to eliminate us based on flawed data and miscalculation. Once notified of the errors, the President downgraded us from elimination to suspension. However, the point still remains that we are targeted to be phased out based on inaccurate information.

Why the Administration wishes to phase out such a productive, inexpensive, vibrant, historic and noble program is beyond many of us. All I know is that, for the reasons stated above, I reject any attempts to suspend this program and am asking for the committee to do so as well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daniel Curtis