

Mr. Kennedy,

I am speaking on behalf of my fellow peers and professors who teach and value the classics and the wisdom of the ancient world. The lessons of the history, culture philosophy and political theory of antiquity are being lost to this university, and Latin and Greek are essential for any serious study of these fundamental millennia of OUR history.

You should know by now that financial necessities are NOT convincing nor sufficient pretexts for inflicting a slow death upon the liberal arts. Lack of enrollment does not imply unimportance of the programs cut or facing extinction. It is the same utilitarianism that car insurance companies use to quantify the value of human life. It is inhuman to put invaluable things like a humanistic education on a balance sheet.

To declare that Latin is not profitable demonstrates a remarkable lack of foresight. Unlike a technical profession, a liberal education takes time, and with enough investment and patience, it could help remedy our decadent and indolent society. It is not merely academia that suffers from lack of Latin scholars. Is it not the practice of law and medicine that are vital to preserving a just and healthy society? Is it not Latin and Greek texts that are the basis of the prevailing world religion, Christianity? These languages are our most crucial connections to our past, and since history defines us, our present as well.

To argue purely by numbers shows a need for instant gratification, producing only immediate but ephemeral rewards; but nonetheless, with time, the chronic problems recur. Budget cuts are just such a "quick fix" that ultimately fails. That and it produces a society that is anti-intellectual and views us remaining classicists as elitists and snobs. That is the attitude that is prevailing through your administration, and it is ruining the institution that it was supposed to serve.

This is a university. Please consult your medieval history textbook for what that word means.

Good day.

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