

On the suspension of the Latin major.

I was very moved by Tina Passman's thoughts on this painful suspension and wish to add a few of my own.

Latin is indeed a very inexpensive major to maintain. I speak from experience since I taught Elementary and Intermediate Latin at the University of Maine since 1992, first as an adjunct faculty and in the last few years as a lecturer and God knows that the University did not spend much on me. There is no need for laboratories or fancy technology that requires constant updates. We have been using the same book, "Latin Via Ovid", for more than twenty years and the students loved it. Some of them told me that they would never sell the book, but would keep it for their own children. Other students expressed the opinion that all language majors should take at least two semesters of Latin, because they found it so helpful for all their language studies.

For centuries Latin was taught not to produce Latin majors, but to teach students how to think, and that is as important today as it ever was. Our people are our most important resource and a university has the responsibility in this area.

The idea that Latin will continue to be taught, but no longer as a Major, is a cynical one. Since no new faculty will be hired, time through retirements and deaths will do its own deletions and so Latin will, effectively, cease to exist and the University of Maine will no longer be *alma mater*. Do not let this happen.

Maria Tijan-Wieck  
Lecturer  
Department of Modern Languages and Classics