

Dear President Kennedy,

I am writing to support the sentiments expressed by James Brophy.

Although there are not large numbers of Latin majors, the presence on the campus of a classicist is very important for the liberal arts, the philosophy, literature, history, and science that have their roots in the classics. And if there is a classicist, it is possible to support a Latin major. I can remember before Prof. Passman was hired, when the previous classicist retired, there was discussion about whether to continue that position. Fortunately, classics survived, and the campus has been enriched over many years by the presence of faculty competent to interpret these essential languages, contribute to humanistic dialogue in the disciplines and in the Honors program, and make serious study of Latin and Greek available for those students wishing to go deeper.

I can add that, as a parent of a teenager at Bangor High School, I was impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the classics club at the high school, unthinkable without the possibility of studying Latin there. What will become of such instruction in the public schools, if it no longer becomes possible to study classics at our flagship university?

Sincerely,

Mike Howard