

Dear Doctor Kennedy,

I am writing to express my absolute horror at your plans to obliterate the UM Classics department. At first I could not believe the wild rumors that were circulating, but you can imagine my astonishment when the worst of them were confirmed. As an aspiring lawyer, I have a keen insight into the value of classical education. I have spoken with lawyers up and down the Northeast and each one has either bemoaned their lack of classical education or rejoiced in its usefulness. More tellingly, I once had the privilege of speaking to a dean of the University of Texas School of Law who said "it is no accident that classics majors do so well on the LSATS...Classics IS law school prep in many respects..." I feel that any student leaving an institution without classics and proceeding to law school will have been done a disservice.

Moreover, I fear for the existence of the liberal arts without its original discipline. I cannot see who we can pretend to be anything other than a technical school without a comprehensive course in the humanities. I urge you to reconsider this mad scheme to gut one of this institution's crown jewels (no doubt pushed upon us by the machinations of forces unseen and unaccountable). Despite what any out of stater may say, we are a legitimate liberal arts college, but we will remain so only as long as we defend the programs that define goals as an institution of higher learning. Should this department fall, there are dozens of students I know personally could not be blamed for no longer viewing an education here as tenable.

Respectfully yours,

William Guida
Third Year Classics and History double major