



October 6, 2023

Dr. E. Gordon Gee  
President, West Virginia University  
P.O. Box 6201  
1500 University Avenue, Stewart Hall  
Morgantown, WV 26506-6201

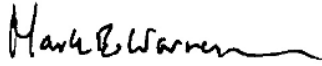
Dear Dr. Gee,

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is writing to express deep concerns regarding the decision to make widespread cuts to academic programs and faculty positions at West Virginia University (WVU). We are especially alarmed that these cuts constitute the elimination of more than 100 faculty positions and the discontinuation of 28 majors primarily within the social sciences and humanities. These unprecedented cuts will undoubtedly diminish the overall experience of graduate and undergraduate students in political science and across other related disciplines. We are sympathetic to the fact that the university made the decision to make widespread cuts as a response to pressing financial challenges. However, we are steadfast in our belief that cuts to academic programs in the social sciences and humanities are a myopic and counterproductive strategy to such challenges and will needlessly harm higher education in the state of West Virginia.

Many of the cuts are targeted towards programs that are essential components of a well-rounded liberal arts education and deeply intertwined with the discipline of political science. We are troubled by the closure of the only traditional Master of Public Administration program in the entire state of West Virginia, which will reduce the talent pool ready to work at municipal and county governments and non-profits across the state. We are also concerned with the almost complete closure of the World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics Department, which will severely damage WVU's ability to offer comparative political science and international studies programs and prevent the placement of WVU students with the U.S. Foreign Service and fellowships such as the Boren, Marshall, Pickering, and Rangel programs. Furthermore, several ancillary academic services such as the library have been slated for cuts, which will undermine the research and academic experiences of students and faculty alike.

Continuing with these widespread cuts will damage vital academic programs and will be a devastating blow to higher education across the state. We call on the administration to begin to restore these programs by reversing these funding cuts as soon as possible.

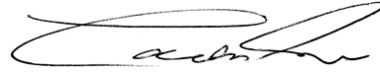
Sincerely,



Mark E. Warren  
President



Lisa Martin  
Past President



Taeku Lee  
President-Elect



Steven Rathgeb Smith  
Executive Director