



September 26, 2023

Dr. Zlatko Skrbis
Vice-Chancellor and President, Australian Catholic University
40 Edward Street
North Sydney NSW 2060

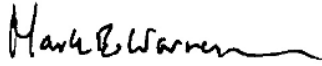
Dear Dr. Skrbis,

On behalf of the American Political Science Association (APSA), we are writing to express serious concern with the proposed layoffs and reorganization of political science department faculty and staff at Australian Catholic University (ACU). We strongly urge ACU to walk back the proposed cuts and to reconsider such drastic changes to the political science program and other programs in the humanities and social sciences.

We understand and sympathize with the economic difficulties that underlie the university's proposal, and we appreciate that ACU is aiming to align its research and its educational offerings while maintaining a high standard of quality. However, the elimination of research-focused political science faculty is a detrimental and short-sighted solution to address the need for additional political science teaching capacity. A vibrant research department is beneficial to attract political science and social science students who desire introductory research experience in their field of study and to retain political science faculty to carry out research and contribute valuable scholarship to the discipline. Further, teaching and research are complementary and the capacity for teaching and research at universities should supplement rather than supplant each other. We maintain that eliminating political science research would unnecessarily jeopardize political science education at ACU rather than free up capacity for it.

The political science research arm set for redundancy at ACU has been, by all measures, well-respected and accomplished. Faculty have published books in Cambridge University Press and articles have been published in the *American Political Science Review*, the *Journal of Politics*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Terminating the promising trajectory of this research team would be a blow not only to the faculty and the student body at ACU, but also to the broader political science discipline. We strongly urge you to reconsider this reorganization of the political science department and other departments in the humanities and social sciences.

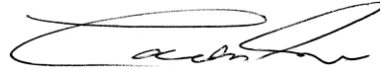
Sincerely,



Mark E. Warren
President



Lisa Martin
Past President



Taeku Lee
President-Elect



Steven Rathgeb Smith
Executive Director