



December 1, 2017

Chancellor Carlo Montemagno
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
1263 Lincoln Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901-6899

Associate Provost Lizette Chevalier
Associate Provost David DiLalla
1263 Lincoln Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901-6899

Dear Chancellor Montemagno and Associate Provosts Chevalier and DiLalla:

It is with deep concern we write regarding the potential impact of the proposed administrative reorganization and elimination of academic departments at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. We greatly respect your aims of increasing creativity and productivity in research and teaching at the university. However, we are concerned that the elimination of the Department of Political Science and the overall departmental structure would substantially curb the role of faculty in shaping the academic mission of the institution and weaken faculty involvement in hiring, tenure, and promotion decisions.

The American Political Science Association is a scholarly association that represents more than 13,000 U.S. and internationally-based professors and students of political science. APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world. Like you, we recognize the value of innovation, creativity, and interdisciplinary scholarship at universities.

We urge your administration to make the principles of shared governance and academic freedom central to the campus-wide reorganization and to provide further opportunities for faculty to discuss and consider these plans in collaboration with your administration. Furthermore, the positioning of political science research and teaching in the School of Homeland Security may unduly constrain the inquiries that political scientists at Southern Illinois University are able to pursue. We urge you to ensure that any reorganization preserves the breadth of scholarship and teaching in political science and supports the department's full scope of research, curricula, and courses.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Thelen, President

David Lake, Past-President

Rogers M. Smith, President-Elect

Steven Rathgeb Smith, Executive Director